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Clam-digging six months of the year

Photo: Anne Hutten
Clam-digging is hard work.

Anne Hutten

FIVE ISLANDS, N.S. — Eddy Webb is one of 400 licensed clam-diggers in the province. A $20 licence fee allows him to work the mudflats between tides, gathering two or three bushels of the succulent mollusks each day. With clams fetching only $28 per bushel this year, Webb has to be content with an income of $56 to $74 daily.

He transfers the contents of his bucket to large bags which are then transported across the mudflats and sold to local buyers. Most eventually go to New Brunswick and the U.S.

There's only one clam factory in the community, Cormier's Clams. It adds to the employment scene by hiring 20 women in season and sells shucked clams at around $52 per gallon.

Some of the clam-diggers are women. Among them is Ann Stevens, mother of two young children. She says she can get a couple of bushels in four hours on a good day. Stevens loads her clams onto a handcart with bicycle wheels, pushing it up a muddy slope to where her car is parked.

"It's hard work, but it's a living," she says of the six months every year that she digs clams.

Cornwall school ceases operations after seven years

Bert Witvoet

CORNWALL, Ont. — The Christian school in this eastern Ontario community will not open its doors in September. After seven years of operation, the board has decided to close the school.

According to board chairperson Jerry TenBrink, there was not enough of a support base for the school to warrant continuing. Enrolment had dropped to 24 students from 55 students when the school opened in 1982, and only about 14 families were sending children. With a budget of $75,000 per year, that meant a heavy burden for a membership of fewer than 60 people.

TenBrink explains that families have been moving out but no new families have come to replace them. "We needed growth rather than decline," he says. But the Christian Reformed Church in Cornwall, which has been the mainstay of the school in terms of leadership and financial support, has fewer than 40 families.

The school attracted several Baptist and Pentecost families in the past. "The families we had were great," says TenBrink, "but there were no new additions."

Economic reasons

Cornwall, like many other eastern Ontario or eastern Canadian communities, has a high rate of unemployment. This helps to explain why younger families are moving out of the area. Combine that with the fact that the Christian Reformed Church has experienced major problems in the past, which centred partly on the school, and it is not difficult to see that the Christian school's enrolment would suffer.

To add to the problems, the school society was told to vacate the Pentecostal church it had been renting. The board purchased a piece of land and had started to erect the foundations for portable classrooms. But the prospect of a low enrolment brought members to the realization that it would be irresponsible to carry out further construction plans.

The society is left with a debt of $24,000 which it must repay in two years. Jerry TenBrink is confident that the community will not saddle the 10 or 11 people who undersigned the loan with having to repay this out of their own pockets. The sale of the portables should bring a couple of thousand dollars. The rest has to be acquired by fund-raising activities.

Difficult experience

Closing a school is not a very joyful experience, says TenBrink. The kids took it hard. "It was a small school. They all know each other. Since they're all going to different schools, they won't see much of each other."

See CHRISTIAN — p. 2

Thinkbit
Death teaches us that in the long run nothing belongs to us.
From: *Personhood* by Leo Buscaglia

Lectures give a rich biblical picture of the meaning of land

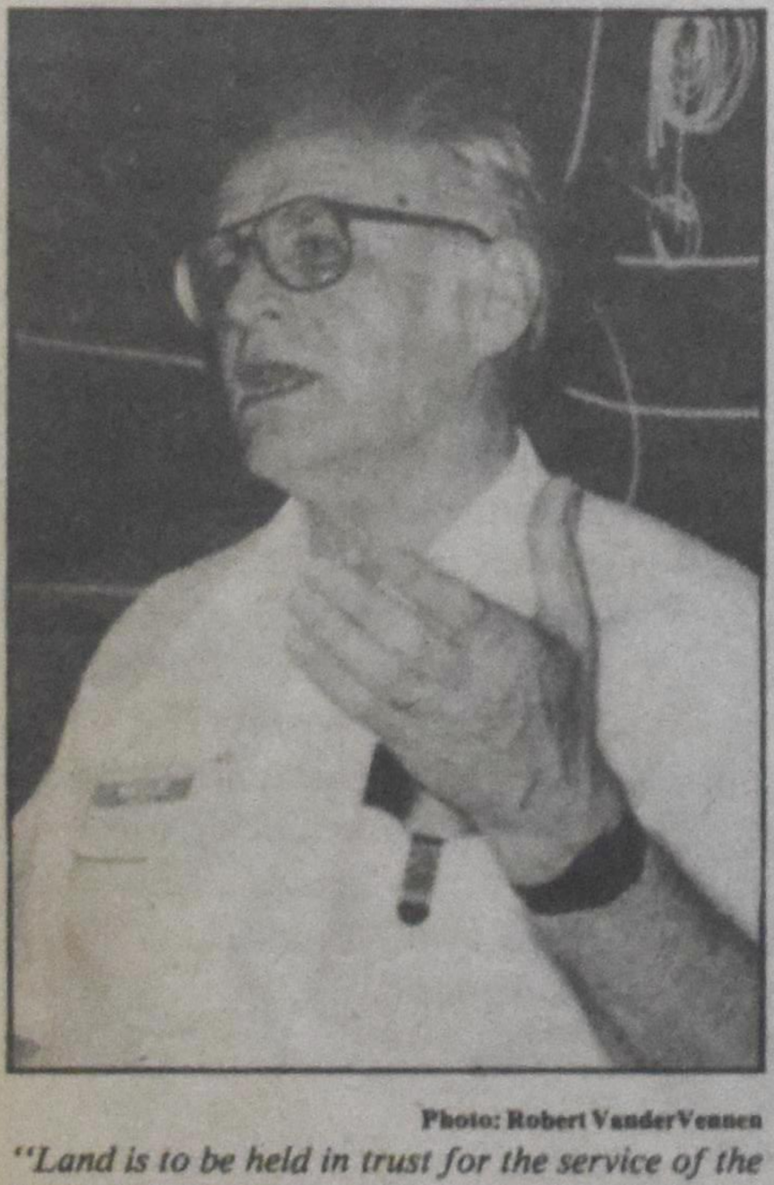

Photo: Robert VanderVennen
"Land is to be held in trust for the service of the Lord," says John Stek.

Robert VanderVennen

TORONTO — The promise of land lies at the centre of God's covenant with his people, Calvin Seminary professor John Stek said. He was talking to 50 people who came to a two-day course on "Land" that he recently taught at Toronto's Institute for Christian Studies (ICS).

Stek pointed out that although Ishmael and Esau were promised rich blessings that included many descendants, neither of them received the promise of land. Yet the gift of land promised to Abraham's descendants was conditional on their keeping the covenant requirement to walk with God and "live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

Land/earth is important in God's plan and therefore in the biblical worldview, said Stek, because it is the arena that God assigned to humankind. Land must always be viewed in its place in the relation of God and humanity, never as an entity in itself. Land is a creature, not a divinity, and not "mother earth" with a fruitfulness of its own.

The course drew a unified but diverse group of people interested in biblical reflection on land. Environmentalists, Bible teachers, a forester, a land appraiser, a professor of agriculture, campus chaplains, pastors in various denominations and people from many walks of life were an attentive class. The short course was organized by Brian Walsh, director of the Institute's Christian worldview study program.

Stek said that "people in both ancient and modern times have experienced a deep attachment to a particular portion of the earth/land, the place of their birth and of their parents' birth and burial. When uprooted from that place, as refugees or immigrants, they feel alienated in the world. But in biblical perspective one should be at home anywhere on earth, wherever God calls, sends or appoints. To be at home in only one place is to be too attached to land in itself, not sufficiently 'walking with God.' "

People are able to bless the land but also to bring corruption and curse on it, said Stek. This can be done by the way they relate to God and other people as well as by what they do directly with the land itself.

See PERILS — p. 2

In this issue:

A mother reflects on the death by accident of her nine-year-old son . . . . pp. 12, 13
How does one receive the Kingdom like a child? asks Agnes Kramer-Hamstra . . . . pp. 14, 15

The end of communism in Eastern Europe?

Photo: Haley/SIPA
Victory for Solidarity in Poland.

David T. Koyzis

Recently Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security advisor under U.S. President Carter, published a book called *The Grand Failure: The Birth and Death of Communism in the Twentieth Century*. In it he predicts that communism as we have come to know it over the last 70 years is coming to an end and that by the beginning of the next century it is likely to be consigned to the dustbin of history. It is too soon to determine whether or not he is correct, but it is certainly true that momentous changes are taking place throughout the communist world which appear to be bringing to a close the post-war era of the last 40 years. The changes are startling and breathtaking, particularly in eastern Europe.

We in the West have long realized that most of the countries in this region have chafed under a political and economic system which was imposed on them by the Soviet Union. Between 1945 and 1949 Moscow gradually tightened its grip on those countries "liberated" from German occupation by its armies and transformed them into Soviet-style "people's republics." A series of purges in the early 1950s solidified communist control over their governments and secured their subservient status for more than a generation.

The situation was obviously not a happy one, and cracks in this façade of "socialist unity" began to appear almost immediately. In 1953 there were strikes and riots in East Germany. In late 1956 Hungary launched its ill-fated uprising which was brutally put down by Soviet tanks. The year 1968 saw these same tanks crush the Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia. And Poland has seen periodic expressions of popular discontent over the decades, culminating in the rise of the Solidarity trade union movement in 1980. In nearly every case communist rule in these countries had to be enforced by at least the threat of intervention from their much larger neighbour.

Democratization

All this has changed with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's apparent hands-off policy in Eastern Europe. After 70 years of communist misrule and a declining Soviet economy, Moscow is no longer in a position to funnel its increasingly limited economic resources in the direction of propping up (much less extending) its vast empire. Earlier this year the Soviet Union pulled out of Afghanistan and is now also attempting to some extent to disengage from Eastern Europe. At this point it is impossible to say what the long-term consequences of this could be. But already two countries in the region, Poland and Hungary, have quickly moved to the forefront of the democratization movement.

Forty years after a communist government was installed in Warsaw, no one wants to rule Poland anymore. On June 4, as a result of the round-table discussions in April between the government and Solidarity, the first relatively free elections in decades were held. Not only was the ruling Polish United Workers' Party humiliated at the polls; but even among those communist candidates running unopposed for the Sejm (the lower house of the parliament) many did not win an absolute majority of the popular vote because voters had simply crossed their names off the ballot.

Now that they have been so thoroughly discredited, the communists are no longer able or willing to govern the country alone and have repeatedly asked Solidarity to join them in a grand coalition of national unity. As of this writing, Solidarity has declined the offer and prefers to stay in opposition for the time being. Entering the government now would mean having to preside over a chaotic economy and to bear at least partial responsibility for the tough medicine that will have to be administered to the Polish people in order to get the country back on its feet. Still, there is something wonderfully ironic in seeing General (now President) Jaruzelski "grovelling" before Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader whom he tried to crush just a few years ago.

Barbed souvenirs

If Poland's future transition to democracy looks rocky, Hungary's seems likely to go somewhat more smoothly. The Hungarian people are quietly picking up where they left off in 1956 and seem bent on completing their de-stalinization. For example, last year it was announced that opposition parties would be legalized this year and free elections held next year. Earlier this summer the executed leader of the 1956 uprising, Imre Nagy, was reburied as a hero, along with several other members of his government. Marx's *Capital* has been dropped as a required reading at Karl Marx University in Budapest. And, in possibly the most dramatic development of all, Hungarian troops are dismantling the barbed wire fence marking their border with Austria. The two countries are now selling pieces of this "iron curtain" to tourists. During his recent visit to Hungary, U.S. President George Bush was presented with one of these souvenirs of the Cold War.

None of these changes for the better is either secure or irreversible, as we have so recently seen from the tragedy in China. The progress of democratization in Poland, Hungary and the Soviet Union itself; greater freedom of the press, speech, and religion; tolerance of political dissent; improving East-West relations — all of these depend for the moment very largely on the good will of Gorbachev himself. They have no firm constitutional basis as yet and could be annulled tomorrow.

Reason for prayer

At such a crucial juncture of history as we seem to find ourselves at present, there is reason for hope — that the Cold War may be over; that people living under tyranny might know freedom; that the ugly division of Europe and the ideology it represents may soon be a thing of the past; that Christians who have suffered persecution may win recognition of their rights. Indeed, a recent conference in Vienna of the Christian Democrats International heard positive reports concerning the re-establishment of Christian democratic movements in Poland, Hungary, Lithuania and Yugoslavia.

But such historic turning points have rarely come peacefully, and there is great potential for more tumult along the lines of what we saw so vividly in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. This is a good time to heed the biblical injunction to pray for the leaders of the nations.

David T. Koyzis is assistant professor of political science at Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ont.

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Perils in possessing the land

... continued from page 1.

Possessing land, being secure in the land, though it is a great blessing from God, can also bring the temptation to forget God and to feel that we humans are in control. At issue is whether people are secure in God or secure in their possessions. Stek showed how in the time of the judges, Israel forgot God after possessing the land. There was some discussion of possible parallels to the situation today in which immigrants have come to Canada and after hard struggle have now come to "possess the land."

It is the destiny of earth and land to share in human destiny before the face of God, said Stek in his closing lecture. The Bible tells us that the meek, that is, the poor and dispossessed, will inherit the earth. This implies that landowners who trust in their own resources will lose their land. But the Bible is rich in promises like those in Psalms 96-99 which say that all the earth will rejoice and flourish when God comes to judge and govern the world in righteousness.

The strength of Stek's presentations lay in his rich and comprehensive knowledge of the Bible, especially the Old Testament, and in the ways he made the Bible come alive for our own life and times. His analysis of the structure of Psalm 104, with its focus on Israel's homeland as God's greenhouse, was a highlight of the course, according to many participants.

Christian school closing not a trend, says director

... continued from page 1.

Principal Colette Rowley also found it hard to quit. "I still haven't adjusted," she says. "We had to put everything up for sale." She was glad that the material will be put to good use and sees the Lord's guiding hand in how things went.

Rowley was principal of the school for four years. In the last year, simple things like promotion were not getting done anymore, she recalls.

According to Adrian Guldemond, executive director of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS), the closing of two OACS schools this year, Cornwall and Truro, Nova Scotia, is not a trend. He expresses concern that small schools in Eastern Canada are facing difficult economic situations (except in Ottawa).

Central Nova Christian School in Truro has always struggled, he points out, ever since they got started in 1979. The CRC community there is not large and the school was not able to gain financial and moral support from the larger Christian community.

But the overall picture of Christian schools is one of growth, he says. The only other OACS school to close in past years was Immanuel Christian School of Agincourt. The cost of living in the city of Toronto is also placing stress on Central Christian School in downtown Toronto, says Guldemond.

Pressreview

Carl D. Tuyl

Finance Minister Michael Wilson hopes to be able to explain the new goods and services tax to us by the end of the summer. Some of his own caucus members are afraid that the new tax will really set the cat among the pigeons, and that there will be a very serious backlash. On paper it looks like a 3.5 per cent increase because the old manufacturer's sales tax is supposed to bring prices down by about 13 per cent. But the old tax never applied to services. We never paid taxes on funerals, haircuts or getting the windows washed, but that will all change starting January 1, 1991, when Michael Wilson will want to tax the kiss you give your spouse in the morning.

★★★★

The PC House leader, Justice Minister Doug Lewis, promised to table a new abortion law in the fall, but he himself was rather doubtful that such legislation would meet with consensus in the House of Commons. The country is divided on the issue, and so is the legislature. Monsieur has hinted that members of cabinet will not be allowed to vote according to their conscience. It will be toe the line or be disciplined. No seat in the Senate for the naughty.

★★★★

Forest fires ravaged much of our timber resources, and caused disruption in the lives of many people. The government has promised support to the people of Manitoba.

★★★★

Monsieur shuffled some of the top layer of the Ottawa bureaucracy. Nine heavy-hitters did the musical-chair dance. Not too many people know the reason for this shake-up. Monsieur might have been bored one evening and decided to rattle the old wagon a bit.

★★★★

The Speaker of the House of Commons wants a compost heap for kitchen and garden waste on Parliament Hill. He wants to show some leadership in the area of recycling. It's fine with us, but I hope that some senators and other truant members of the House will not be relegated to John Fraser's compost heap. Although ....

★★★★

Some of the news simultaneously disturbs a person's peace and appetite. The first fake loonies have appeared and Agriculture Canada ranked foods for cancer risks: tomatoes, beef, potatoes, apples and pork in that order. *Prosit!*

★★★★

The leadership campaigns in the Liberal Party as well as in the NDP have not gone on the back-burner, they have fallen off the stove. The current summer temperatures are too high for serious political business.

★★★★

A Toronto paper felt compelled to publish Monsieur's travel expenses and implied that they were too high. Do they want Monsieur to hitchhike on the Trans-Canada Highway? Or do they want Mila to ride her bike to Moose Jaw?

★★★★

The Anglicans are really with it: they have changed the name of their official church paper from *Anglican Churchman* to *Anglican Journal Episcopal*. Bilingualism, you know. I wonder whether we should change *The Banner* into *La Banderole*, and this paper into *En Contact avec Les Calvinistes*. It would please Premier Bourassa, I am sure.

★★★★

We sadly regret to have to tell our readers that the Exxon company's profits were way down as a result of that firm's expenses in cleaning up the Alaska mess — which by the way will finish on September 15, and that date is not negotiable, says an internal company memo. Clean or not clean, we quit. Anybody still buying Exxon stuff?

Here is a lesson for our own Michael Wilson: many people believe that Japan's government suffered its loss because of Uno's geisha addiction. Forget it, that's really not the reason. The thing that did Prime Minister Uno in was the fact that his government proposed a three per cent increase in sales tax.

★★★★

The Russian nuclear submarines are about as accident-prone as a toastmaster in a contemplative monastery. These boats keep surfacing with smoke coming out of the portholes. Comrade Gorbachev is having a tough time of it, what with all these coal-miners wanting soap to wash themselves. Greedy, aren't they? Gorbachev responded like all politicians: give 'em the old "rah rah" and promise soap, soup and salami. It always works: the miners went back to the pits.

★★★★

Guess what, old chap? Mrs. Thatcher is having a bit of a bumpy ride. Seems the old union busting trick is not so popular anymore. She fired a couple of her ministers and sent a whole lot of others to different departments. You don't say.

★★★★

We all remembered the first moonwalk, our "giant leap." Alas, we haven't been able to find a cure for the common cold and a whole lot of other diseases, we haven't been able to keep children from dying from hunger, we keep raping our little planet, and we haven't been able to save a couple of hundred if not thousand species of our fellow dwellers on this earth. Hey, but we've been on the moon, haven't we?

★★★★

Hold your breath, stop everything. The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks is voting on whether they will extend membership to women. I can hardly stand the suspense.

And I conclude with a piece of high-grade, choice wisdom written by Tom Harpur in the *Toronto Star*: "Most of what we really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain but in the sand-box at the nursery school: share everything, play fair, don't hit people, put things back where you found them, clean up your own mess, don't take things that aren't yours, say sorry when you hurt somebody, wash your hands before you eat, flush, take a nap every afternoon, watch for traffic, hold hands and stay together."

Harpur concluded: "Think of what a better world it would be if we all — the whole world — had milk and cookies at 3 p.m. every afternoon, and then lay down with our blanket for a nap."

Some of that stuff we have forgotten, but it's worth memorizing it again, isn't it? Perhaps some bulletin editors might want to put it in their weekly publication. Do people still read church bulletins?

Carl Tuyl is pastor of First Christian Reformed Church, Kingston, Ont.

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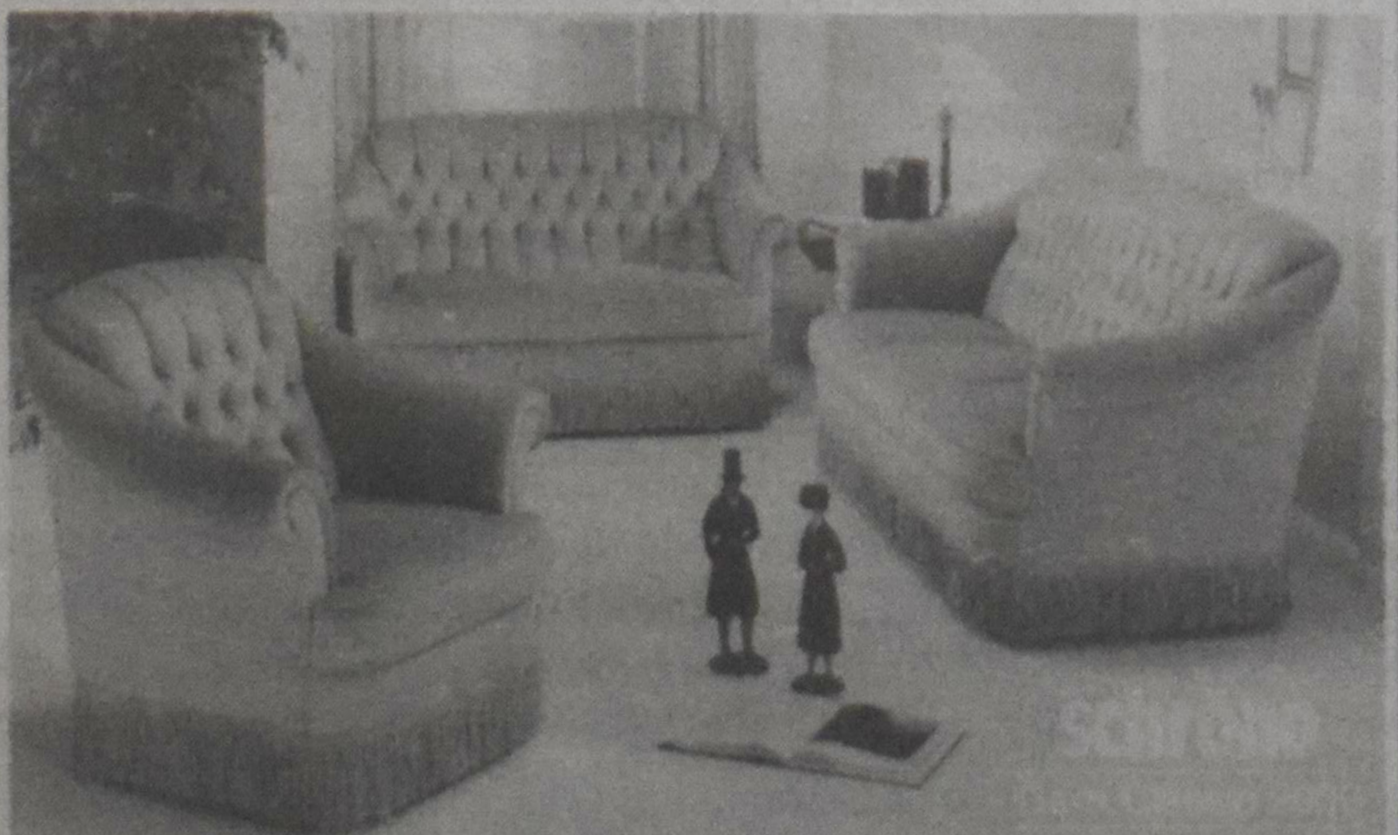

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Editorial

How big are we human beings?

Years ago, when I started teaching English literature, I became aware that different civilizations have different ideas about what size human beings are. I remember studying and teaching Greek myths. In the introduction to *Mythology*, author Edith Hamilton talked about "the Greek miracle." That miracle was the hitherto unknown perspective that human beings were the centre of the universe. Human beings were so big in the eyes of Greek poets that they fashioned their gods in the image of men and women. Greek gods were superpeople.

How the Greeks came to this idea no one knows. All other civilizations pictured human beings as insignificant creatures who were at the mercy of all kinds of natural forces and non-human-like gods. The gods were sometimes pictured as animals or as rivers, mountains or trees. No one thought that people were very important or powerful. In fact, people had to spend a fair bit of time and effort appeasing the gods. Gods were big; people were small.

Just below angels

The Hebrews were different again, though. Guided by special revelation, they served only one god, who was almighty and who had made people in his own image. They called this god Jehovah, or Yahweh. The size of human beings, according to the Hebrews, was somewhere between where most pagans pegged it and where the Greeks thought it should be.

Psalm 8 starts by saying that Yahweh is majestic, his glory above the heavens. What is man compared to this great Creator? Yet, says David, "you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet...." And then the psalm ends again by praising God: "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth."

This is the view of God and human beings that we Christians have inherited. People stand tall and high, but God stands far higher. Now the question is, how do we keep the proper perspective, as revealed to us in Scripture, alive in our thinking and doing? How can we keep ourselves from growing too large or from shrinking down too much?

I know Christians who prefer to say that human beings are insignificant. If pressed for a reason they might give the following two: we were already unimportant when we were created and we made ourselves less by falling into sin. These Christians do not tire of telling themselves and others how worthless we are. If the nations are less than a drop in the bucket, why, human beings can't even be seen with the naked eye! We are less than a speck of dirt.

Other Christians may not go that far, but they nevertheless believe or feel that it's wrong to focus on persons in worship services, for example. Worship services are meant only to proclaim the Word of God. You don't listen to personal testimonies or allow song or prayer requests. That, too, is a question of size. How big may we be as human beings when we stand in the presence of God?

Proper inflation

Human beings are like tires. It's not good to under-inflate them because then they can't function properly and they wear out too soon. But it's not good to over-inflate them either because then they burst. I think God is angry with people who are filled to bursting with pride. But I believe that God is annoyed with people who don't dare to assume their proper size.

People who are afraid to challenge God with some hard questions at times, or who think that the proper attitude of humility is to apologize to God for breathing are, in fact, insulting God. God made us beautiful and he placed us high, only a little lower than the angels. Who are we to decide that that is not the right place?

The fact that we have fallen into sin should not affect the measure of our personhood. We're not going to solve our status as fallen creatures by shrinking our humanity. We repent and ask for forgiveness, and we do that with bowed heads and bent knees. But once we have been forgiven, we straighten up again and resume our place in the created order of things: rulers we were called to be; rulers we shall be.

Remember how the prodigal son returned and asked his father to be a servant? The father would have none of it. He put the best robe on him, a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet and he threw a banquet in his son's honour. Does that sound as if forgiven sinners should cringe and grovel like fallen nobodies?

Stand tall and strong

An elderly lady who used to visit our home told us once to let our children know where the boundaries are but not to break their wills. She felt that it was very important for the child to grow up tall and strong of character. Good advice.

The popular Californian lecturer and professor of education Leo Buscaglia wrote a book several years ago called *Personhood — the Art of Being Fully Human*. In it he quotes a rabbi, who is supposed to have said: "When we cease to live and go before our Creator, the question asked of us will not be why we did not become a messiah, a famous leader, or why we did not answer the great mysteries of life. The question will be simply — why did you not become you, the fully active, realized person that only you had the potential of becoming?"

Christians can pick up on this by saying that redemption in Christ includes the restoration of the unique person we were meant to be.

I like it when people are self-assured. I like it when they stretch themselves from time to time. Who knows exactly what size we should be, anyway? I believe that a good air pressure gauge for human beings is the one that tells whether or not they make room for others to grow and take up their allotted space in life. People who encourage other balloons to be filled probably have their own balloon filled just right — not too full so that others get crowded out (God doesn't mind if you have size-13 shoes as long as you don't step on other people's toes) and not too empty so that you can't rise to the occasion of God's feast.

I don't know whether adults should be singing the song "Jesus bids us shine ... like a little candle glowing in the night ...; you in your small corner and I in mine." Jesus never put us in a corner, but he placed us in the world when he said that we were the light of the world. Secondly, he did not say we were a *little* candle, but he used imagery like a city on the hill, a lamp on a stand giving light to everyone in the house. Let's not make ourselves too diminutive. Let's acknowledge the size, not of our egos, but of our humanity. That brings honour to our great and wonderful Creator God, who alone is worthy of our full-blown praise.

BW

ROOFTOP MUSINGS/ALYCE OOSTERHUIS

Last words

When our children leave for school in the morning, the last words they utter as the door closes behind them are, ''Bye! I love you!'' When they are tucked into bed at night, the last words they hear from us are, ''Goodnight, I love you.'' When we were describing our morning rituals to a friend sometime ago, he looked surprised and said, ''I don't remember hearing or telling my children that with such frequency and regularity. I guess we raised our children at a time of greater personal restraint.''

Reflecting on those comments, I do not think that the lack of personal restraint is necessarily the reason for the frequency with which we express endearments to our children. I happen to feel that the last words one speaks make a lasting impression, especially if they are the last words one is given the opportunity to exchange with the person.

Don't go to bed angry

My father always used to state that ''the sun should not set on one's anger.'' Sometimes I heeded his advice; often I did not. The one time I should have and did not was the night my mother died. My last words to her had been the cutting anger of an arrogant 18-year-old. I remember walking past her bedroom door that evening and justifying in my mind why I should not tap gently on her door to say, ''Forgive me. I'll try to be more loving.'' In the years thereafter whenever a friend would describe arguments with parents or other loved ones, I would become extremely agitated and insistent that they make amends while they had the chance. For the words we speak hurt more than sticks and stones; they continue to linger in one's heart long after the moments have passed.

My father's last words to me were: ''You'll always be my *prul* [little one]'' and in those words I heard the forgiveness I had not asked for many years previous. His death, though no less sudden than my mother's, could be accepted with a contentment which death had not brought before.

No, I do not insist on saying endearments frequently because this night may be our last. To confront our children with this possibility daily raises anxieties about tomorrow and tonight's sleep that are not conducive to healthy sleep. The last words they need to hear frequently are the words of comfort and hope, of constancy and security.

Comfort and hope

Christ's last words to his disciples were also words of comfort and hope, of strength and vision. ''But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses'' (Acts 1:8). Those were the words that must have been ringing in the air and in their hearts 10 days later when ''a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind'' (Acts 2:2). They were the words which resounded whenever they preached and reached out to others in his name.

Our children are still young, and it is possible that in the turbulence of their future years, as they separate from us to find others with whom to love and share many words, the last words we speak may not always be so gentle and comforting. But the years have dulled the sharpness of my tongue; they have loosened the floodgates of my heart to let me express more clearly when I hurt. And if and when we hurt each other, I hope that at the least, I have learned to ask for forgiveness.

Alyce Horzelenberg-Oosterhuis is assistant professor of education at The King's College in Edmonton.

More letters on page 6

Longer Letter

Victims can become survivors

Thank you for publishing the story of Grace M. Boldens — ''Overcoming a painful childhood'' (June 23). It took her two-and-a-half years to overcome the effects of her painful childhood. It is taking me longer, but I am working on it. Everybody is different and everybody has different experiences of abuse. I would like to share with your readers a letter I read one Sunday morning in March this year to the church of which I am a member. It's all part of my process of healing.

Letter to congregation

You being my congregation, I like to share something with you. The past three-and-a-half years have been very difficult years for me, my family and my close friends. The church has become an unsafe place and a threat in some ways to me.

I like to tell you why.

I was sexually abused by a so-called ''friend'' of the family when I was only four or five years old. When I was nine, years of incest followed. The threat made to me that my legs would be broken if I would ever tell anyone, that threat was real, there was no doubt in my mind as a child that it would be carried out. So I learned very early it did not matter what I felt, I learned to be ''dead'' to my feelings. This knowledge was carried through my growing up years and adult life.

I do not need to draw a blueprint for you, how many times up to now, I have felt and was hurt by people's deeds and words.

I have learned a lot these past three-and-a-half years. To mention some: God made me with feelings, not just happy ones, but also sad and angry feelings. They are not from the devil, they make me *me!*

I now also know, out of bitter experience, that it is necessary to go back to the past, to capture all memory, all the pain and all the unshed tears. Why? Because only then can I be a complete, free person. I can never do that alone. God blessed me richly with pastors and a counsellor as guides to my healing.

It would also be great if you as a congregation could muster an open mind and be supportive.

An incest victim and her family need a lot of support. Sayings like: you should not feel that way, or leave the past the past, or oh, that is so long ago, you still think about that?! or *stel je niet aan* (don't put on such an act). They hurt! They only show denial, denial of the victim's pain, denial of the truth.

To become a survivor, the victim needs to talk about the past, so it won't keep on having a hold on her. The counsellor will make her feel safe within herself. The pastor will gently remind her of God's faithfulness, love and compassion for *all* his children that are hurting. One sure thing, deep down I have always known that God was and is with me in my struggles. If I had not known that, I would not be here today.

Why can I not go to church then? I have gotten a lot of mixed messages through my life. On Sunday people sing God's praises in church, from Monday through Saturday it was okay for these same people to abuse me and hurt me so bad till I was and am convinced I am worthless. It takes a lot of time, a lot of effort and hard work to clear up a distorted past.

When I am in church now, it feels as if the very walls of the buildings and everyone in it is crushing me. It becomes impossible to breathe.

How can a congregation help?

Try to be compassionate, not judgmental.

Please give the victim the time to work things through, there is no time limit to healing.

We as victims know that no one can really understand how deep the hurt and how severe the pain is unless you have gone through it.

But by not being able to understand it fully does not excuse you by ignoring its existence.

If you know of someone who is hurting this way, you can do one of two things. You can discourage her, or you can encourage her.

Discouraging is when you say, oh come on, the sun is shining today. Don't think about all that garbage, don't do what your counsellor says. That is silly, smile!

Encouraging is to let her talk, listen; a hug, a squeeze on the arm or shoulder, a card; oh, they go a long way. *That is support!*

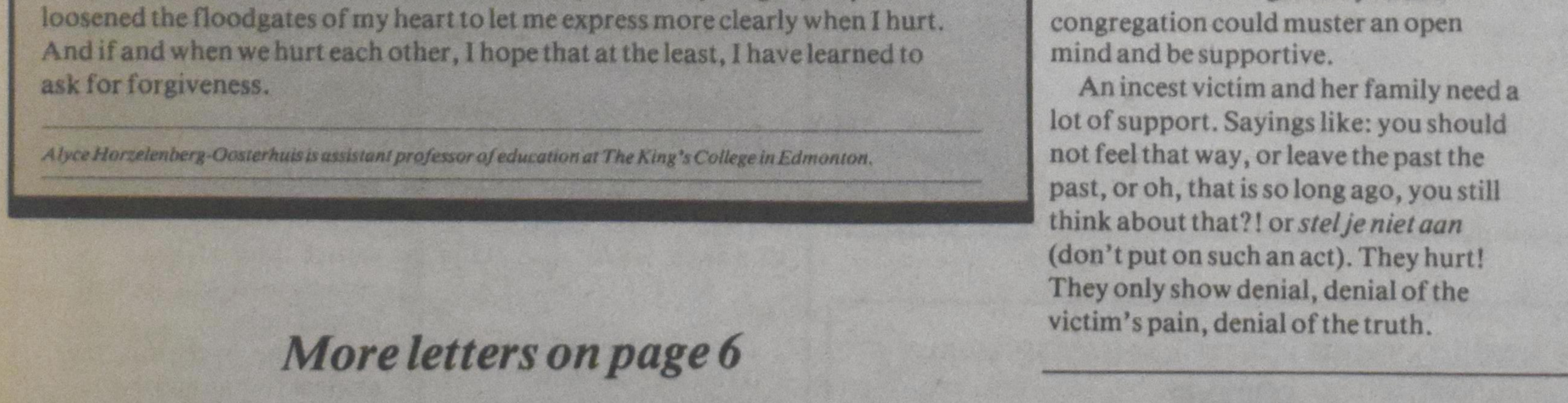
Let us learn together, let us pray together. Then we can also sing together:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Then a victim will be able to call herself a survivor!

Willy

BEYOND BELIEF



Corrections

The letter from Bob Wierdsma (July 14) contained an error of omission. We left out the word ''save'' in a sentence that should have read: ''then came the Immanuel (God with us) who came to *save* us from eternal damnation.''

In giving the telephone number of AWARE (July 7) a Toronto-based group with a ministry to gays and lesbians in the Christian Reformed Church, we made an error in the first digit. The correct telephone number is 690-2133 (area code 416).

Editor

Letters

Let male church leaders treat women with respect

This letter is a response to Marian Van Til's articles dealing with the 1989 CRC Synod (C.C. June 30).

The impression I got is that as long as rules and regulations of the church are met, things are fine. Don't the people of the synod know the first and second commandment (Matthew 22:37-40)! John Bergsma's sexist joke (p. 12, "A personal view: a quiet year — with undercurrents") was a very sick joke. Haven't they got anything better to do than to joke around? It is time that the women in the church speak up when the church leaders downgrade them. I have never been in favour of women deacons/elders until the past few years. If the men want to be the head of the house let them treat the women with greater respect and compassion.

The fact that the CRC and the RCA had communion together was great, but that some walked out was very rude. What will they do when they go to heaven? Tell the Lord I don't want to be with the RCA people? I think we should all start living according to the Bible. People should realize that there is no way except through the *blood of the Lamb*.

"Hotline to heaven" (p. 14, "The lighter side") I thought was something else. I wonder if Dr. Lewis Smedes would have told that to his audience if he had just lost his wife?

I could write a lot more, but I am not going to. I think it is sad and bad enough that they have shown such a low opinion of women. If the pastors would like to be respected they must remember that respect has to be earned. In conclusion I would like to say: "A loving deed means a lot more than long sermons."

Betty Prinzen
Bloomfield, Ont.

Courageous and helpful reading

I read the *Contact* regularly and I've long admired your efforts reflected on the editorial page and by the whole paper. In particular, I've appreciated your courageous and provocative pieces, e.g., on sexual abuse some time ago; more recently, Marian Van Til on synodical matters.

Please convey my appreciation also to Peter and Marja Slofstra. They give helpful responses to real-life situations.

Wayne Joosse
Grand Rapids, Mich.

SKYLIGHTS/WILLIAM R. RANG

Let's learn from the geese

Every classroom has a few bookworms. One of mine came excitedly with a volume of the encyclopedia in his hand. "Look at this, sir." He had been studying geese, the Canada goose to be precise.

I looked, of course, but did not know what he wanted me to notice in particular. "Canada goose," I mumbled.

"Yes, but did you know, sir, that they can fly 73 per cent farther when they fly in formation rather than alone?"

I didn't. "No," I answered, "I did not know. But then, I know very little about a lot of things, so ... "

"Is that why we go to school together?"

I was dumbfounded. Here was a youngster just 13 years old. Such understanding!

The Lord has said that it was not good for man to be alone. When he said this, he taught us that humans are social beings. We need company in order to be fulfilled. We need company to function to the fullest of our capacities. We need company in order to grow and mature. We need others to communicate our thoughts, fears and joys. This goes for children as well. The Lord called children (plural) to himself and he did not call them one by one. Children need to learn from one another not only attitudes that are correct, but also to recognize those which are wrong. Somehow a child needs a child in order to mature. And although some good can be said about home schooling, I have observed that youngsters coming to school from a home schooling program have great difficulty adjusting to the group. It is for this and other reasons that home schooling receives failing grades from this teacher and educator.

Strange, isn't it? The church is a group, too. And yet there are numerous Christians who prefer to be anonymous in church. They do not associate, they do not attend Bible classes or clubs. Their conversation after church is just small talk. They have private and untested opinions. They have no idea what the communion of the saints really means. They avoid becoming involved.

We must learn from the geese, I'm sure. Somehow I, too, must learn that I must fly in formation with others. After all, it's our destination that we must keep in mind.

William R. Rang is principal of Dunnville (Ont.) Christian School.

Applicants must be Christians

Our gratitude and praise goes to Paul DeGroot who wrote an informative and positive article describing the ministry of Intercristo. We are blessed to know that our neighbours in the North are interested in the U.S. ministries that are able to serve you.

I did want to call attention to one point about our service that Mr. DeGroot perhaps misunderstood. The writer incorrectly quoted me as stating that our applicants did not necessarily have to be Christians. Because Intercristo serves only non-profit Christian organizations which have the right to ask each applicant if they are a Christian, we do assist only Christians. This is a U.S. constitutional right of non-profit religious organizations.

Thank you for your contribution to the Lord's ministry. We pray we can continue to assist any of your readers who have a desire to use their skills and experience in full-time ministry work.

Jana Baker
Marketing Manager
Intercristo
Seattle, Wash.

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*Note: This program was initiated in the fall of 1986. ICS has requested authority to grant the Master of Arts in Worldview Studies degree from the Government of Ontario, but at the time of publication the government had not yet made a descision.

Don't spout Greenpeace propaganda

When I read the article called "Dolphin carnage on the high seas" in C.C., July 14, I thought, "I've read this before." Searching through the circular file, I found the newsletter from Greenpeace. Please check the number of direct quotes in the article and the lack of quotation marks.

I think the article should not have been printed. It is not the result of investigation as far as I can tell. Instead, it is paraphrased (and quoted) propaganda.

I oppose, by the way, the driftnet fishing and the disregard for dolphins, though not the killing of the latter under certain circumstances and in a "humane" way.

Curt Gesch
Smithers, B.C.

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Cinema summaries

Marian Van Til

Turner & Hooch

Rated PG
Stars Tom Hanks, Mare Winningham
Directed by Robert Spottiswoode

Turner & Hooch does not rest on a new formula — cop and dog stories have been around for a long time. Only a few months ago one showed up in the guise of a movie called *K-9* (C.C. June 2). This one, however, is a horse (or rather, *dog*) of a different colour.

Turner is a fastidious, buttoned-down, small-town detective who will be moving up and out to a big-city police department in the next few days. The most important police work in his town is handing out parking tickets and shooing kids off the beach after curfew. So Turner's training of his replacement is uneventful until some kids find a wad of money washed up on the beach and a murder is committed near the local fish packing plant. (No one immediately tries to find out if the two events are related — stretching credibility a little for the sake of the plot.)

Turner had long been friendly with the old man who was murdered and the man's mastiff, Hooch, was the only "witness" to the crime. We know from the outset that the perfectionist Turner is going to be keeping the slobbering, bull-like dog and will learn to love him — and the vet who treats Hooch. Of course, the crime will eventually be solved.

There's nothing brilliantly innovative about this film; yet, the viewer's interest is held and one leaves the theatre with a smile.

The key to that is Tom Hanks, not the dog, nor the plot. Hanks' previous films have shown that not only is he an astute comedian but that he can be a thoughtful dramatic actor. Here, he is skilful enough not only to prevent being upstaged by the dog (film animals almost always upstage their human counterparts, it seems) but to create a humourous but believable partnership between himself and the animal.

This is what I would call a "good dessert" film. It is not of great consequence; it won't stir one's soul to profound thought or action. But it is not mere cotton candy. (It has a surprising ending which, while upbeat, is decidedly unsaccharine.) It's more like a dish of fresh strawberries: one can't live on them, but they're not bad for you and are refreshing every now and then.

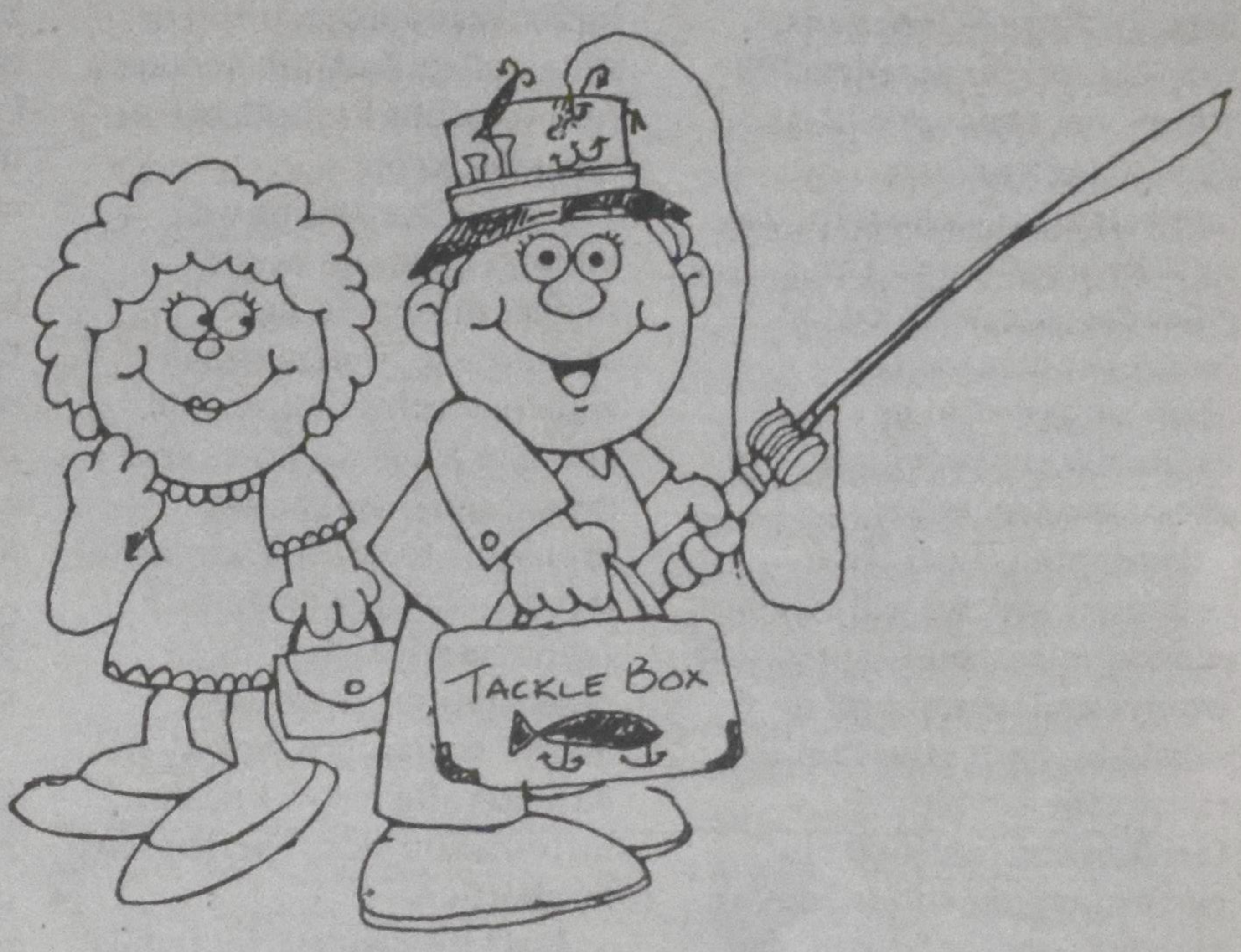
See page 17 for Weekly Crossword Puzzle

An ABC for fisherman's wives only

Jacoba Bos

If you are married to an **A**vid angler and you abhor blackflies, squirmy worms and smelly **B**oat motors, take heart. Here, in alphabetical order, is a survival guide.

The **C**atch of the day can be large or small. If it's small, it will be carried in after dark. If your fisherman husband is lucky enough to catch more than a dozen slippery, shiny fish, the loot is carried home like a radiant bride carries her bouquet down the aisle.



The **D**istance you will travel with your fishy husband depends on which of his friends and relatives is the best bragger. If Uncle Harry caught a 13-pound muskie somewhere in the wilds and 300 miles away from the comforts of home, then ask no questions but follow your dreamer to the ends of civilization.

Exaggeration is allowed, but only when it concerns the size or quantity of the fish caught.

A **F**illet is a three-inch long piece of raw fish, the thickness of a paper plate. Treat a fillet as you would caviar; with great care and respect. But you know, of course, that the actual cost involved in getting this piece of fish to your table far exceeds the price of caviar.

Fishing **G**ear is the name given to worm baskets, nets, minnow pails, rods, depth-finders and other things which clutter up the garage in winter and the boat in summer.

Home is where your thoughts will wander as you wash dishes in a dish pan on a picnic table while you chase mosquitos from your eyes with a soapy hand.

Inches may be confused with centimetres, especially when measuring the length of the fish.

"**J**ust a minute." When you hear these words uttered by your spouse be prepared to spend another hour or two on the water. It usually means that your husband has discovered a fishing hole.

Keep your sanity and sense of humour. They'll come in handy when the big ones get away.

Line is the threat which mysteriously gets tangled up in your reel or around the anchor, or worse yet, on the rocks. This same line is used by your husband to haul in a shiny, slippery fish. The word "line" also refers to "stringing you a line." This expression was likely invented by a fisherman.

Minnows are miniature fish. Pretty enough for an aquarium, fishermen consider them prized bait. These tiny creatures are caught in a special net which they will enter only if enticed by a slice of bread.

Knowing the **N**ames of different kind of fish is helpful when identifying your mate's prized catch. One word of advice: Never call a pike a catfish. When in doubt just say, "That's a beauty!"

The great **O**utdoors will be your home. It is furnished with mosquitos, blackflies, and other creatures which crawl or fly or squeak in the night.

Pantyhose. If you value them, keep them hidden. Especially the silky, colour co-ordinated, "Give-your-legs-a-lift pair" for which you paid $6.50. Pantyhose make great minnow nets and fishermen as well as gentlemen do prefer Hanes.

A **Q**uestion you should never, never ask is: "Is that all you caught?"

Rainbow trout does not have a pot of gold in its mouth. This fish is called rainbow trout because of its scarcity and elusiveness. It's easier to catch a rainbow than the above named fish.

Sunfish are colourful, small fish. Should you, by some stroke of luck, find one on the end of your line, take the hook from its mouth and return it to its freedom. This beautiful creature deserves to live.

Tension refers to the tightness with which the fishline is wound around the reel. It could also refer to the feelings building up between you and your spouse.

Upon arriving home you'll be glad to realize that water comes in different temperatures, as you soak your tired body in a hot bath.

Variable winds described in the marine forecasts and listened to by your nautical spouse can mean anything from a light breeze to a raging storm.

Worms are the crawling creatures hooked on the end of a fishing pole. When not in use you will find them in your camper's miniature ice box next to the orange juice.

E**X**tra large is what you'll call the fish your husband carries in. If you value your marriage, you'll also give him an extra large kiss.

And don't ask yourself the question: "Wh**Y** did I go on this trip?"

Zippers on life jackets can be as co-perative as booster cables at 40 below. When you struggle to undo the life preserver for the last time, remember that someday you'll think back with fond memories on the fishing trip you took as a fisherman's wife.

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Church

Marian Van Til, page editor

JustLife develops guidelines for abortion alternatives

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (EP) — JustLife, a U.S. organization of Christians working for "a consistent life ethic," has announced it is developing a series of interrelated guidelines for use by state legislatures. The guidelines are designed to reduce the demand for abortion as well as its availability by providing abortion alternatives.

If adopted, JustLife's proposed package will enhance economic support for pregnant women and the unborn, give subsidies to adoptive families, restrict the use of public facilities and employees in performing abortions, require viability tests for fetuses, and establish consent requirements for abortion.

The package of eight guidelines, which can be fashioned into legislative initiatives appropriate for each state, reflect JustLife's concern for protecting life both before and after birth.

A guideline dealing with informed consent would require those offering abortions to first inform the woman seeking an abortion about fetal development and the nature of the abortion procedure to be used, arrange a meeting for the woman with a representative of an organization providing abortion alternatives, and wait 48 hours after providing this information before performing an abortion.

JustLife also calls for family consent before abortions are performed. The guidelines propose that parental consent be required before minors receive abortions, and in the case of an adult would require the consent of the father of the unborn child if the father is married to and living with the mother.

Other guidelines proposed by JustLife follow the Supreme Court's *Webster* decision by requiring viability testing and banning use of public hospitals and public employees in abortions.

Make motherhood easier

To make the decision to carry a child to term an easier one, JustLife proposes the creation of state-level agencies to co-ordinate programs which offer services to pregnant women and mothers of newborn children. Stephen Monsma, president of JustLife, says, "A just and fair public policy will recognize and respond to the needs of mothers and the rights of children to live a healthy life both before and after birth."

Other JustLife suggestions include: requiring employers to grant up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave from work to parents of newborn children and up to 25 unpaid days off from work each year to care for sick children; including unborn children as recipients of public assistance to aid women who are carrying children; and providing adoption subsidies for difficult-to-place children.

"These guidelines are rooted in a consistent, thorough respect for human life as a gift from God," said Monsma. "It therefore seeks to assure that states will provide women with the help and support they may need in their pregnancies and in raising young children. It will also take important steps to protect pre-birth human life within the guidelines set down thus far by the Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* and *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services.*"

JustLife is dedicated to the creation of a "consistent life ethic," seeking justice for the poor and vulnerable of society, an end to the arms race and escalating military expenditures, and an end to abortion.

Albania worst offender of religious freedom in world, according to Puebla Institute report

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — Albania, a strictly Communist nation which is said to view the Soviet Union as too liberal in the area of individual freedom, is the worst abuser of religious liberty in the world, according to a recent report.

"There is absolutely no institutionally sponsored public expression of faith of any kind in Albania today," wrote researchers with The Puebla Institute in a report entitled *Albania: Religion in a Fortress State*. The Puebla Institute is a private monitoring group for human rights around the world. It is led by lay Catholics.

Albania, officially the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, is on the Adriatic Coast of the Balkan Peninsula. Opposed to de-Stalinization, Albania broke ties with the Soviet Union in 1961. Its relatively close relationship with China ended in 1978. Leaders of the nation of three million have kept it largely cut off from the rest of the world.

According to the Puebla report, the people of Albania are encouraged to spy on one another in an attempt to keep all religious expression banned from society. There are no places of worship; all religious education is banned as are religiously sponsored or affiliated hospitals and charitable institutions. However, many families still carry on religious practices in secret, according to the report.

Mother Teresa irony

Albania was once known for its religious toleration, serving as a haven for religious minorities. Before World War II the people of Albania worshipped freely, and during World War II the country was a haven for Jews fleeing Nazi persecution. Nobel Prize winner Mother Teresa of Calcutta is a native of Albania.

In 1944 the Communist Party took control under the leadership of Enver Hoxha who ruled the country until his death in 1985. In the years that followed the war, the government waged a war against religion, seeking to replace it with Communism and, some say, the worship of Hoxha.

The campaign was not complete, however, until 1967, the year Albania proclaimed itself the world's first atheistic state. In that year, cites the report, the Party tore down every public symbol of religion, closed every house of worship, banned all religious practices, imprisoned most clergy, and subjected thousands of Christians to a six-month "brainwashing" program.

In an attempt to remove anything that would remind people of the existence of God, government workers tore down all religious monuments and symbols. According to one story, a Christian man, while watching workers rip religious symbols down, commented, "You can tear a cross from a church, but you cannot take the stars from the sky."

There have been reports of religious persecution in Albania in recent months. Peter Jennings, a reporter for the world's largest Roman Catholic newspaper, *Our Sunday Visitor*, visited the country last winter. He reported that "Nothing in Albania has changed" in terms of individual or corporate religious freedom. Ramiz Alia, the country's current leader, is "pursuing exactly the same policy as Hoxha."

The Puebla report comes on the heels of a similar report from the United Nations, which concluded last December that "religious believers are still being sentenced to up to 10 years in prison for making the sign of the cross, keeping religious symbols in their homes, or vocalizing a prayer."

Jennings said he finds it ironic that while Mother Teresa often draws attention to the terrible plight of her homeland and of the Christians living there, "Albania is still largely forgotten by Christians in the free world."

Cuba preparing new law on religion

GENEVA (REC) — Cuba is preparing a new law on religion that will allow churches not currently registered to apply for registration as churches, according to Cuba's minister of religious affairs. Speaking to the Lutheran World Federation, Dr. Carneado claimed that the small Lutheran church of 150 people in Cuba would be able to be recognized.

Under the present law, those who were not registered in 1959 are not able to be registered. Carneado said that there was no problem with church buildings and convents since "we never confiscated them. We don't have to return legal status to the churches because we never took it away."

Mozambique refugees receive $65,000 from REC members

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (REC) — Refugees from Mozambique living in Malawi are being helped through the winter by funds donated by churches in the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC). In December the Interim Committee of the REC issued an appeal to relieve the plight of members of the Reformed Church of Mozambique. More than 20,000 members of this church are among the thousands who have fled Mozambique to escape war and famine. REC member churches and related bodies have now contributed more than $65,000 in assistance funds.

Speaking for the executive of the Reformed Churches of Mozambique, Rev. C. Burger wrote recently that food supplements and blankets have been purchased and are being distributed by the deacons of the church.

Donations have been received from Australia, the Netherlands, Japan, the United States, Canada, Greece and South Africa.

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A Presbyterian Comments

Visit Mount Horeb after your vacation

Robert J. Bernhardt

I don't really want to be the first to say it, but the summer vacation period is almost over and done with for another year. In a mere two weeks, those of you who are parents of children and young people will be watching your offspring return to school.

In reality, the church scene actually parallels the school year. While it is now fashionable for people to vacation in the winter and go south, there is still the impact of the traditional summer vacation period on the ebb and flow of church life. In the congregation that I serve, the changed patterns of the summer season are all too obvious. This spring I jokingly commented to a friend that each year the people of Chalmers re-enact the Exodus. Indeed, I have a number of families who have summer residences elsewhere, and I seldom see them at all between June and September.

Since I myself usually vacation during this same summer period, some problems are created for me as a pastor. Significant events in people's lives, which during other seasons would be quite obvious, may slip by unnoticed during the summer. September becomes a time when I try to catch up on what has been happening in the lives of our people.

The Exodus theme

While originally spoken of in jest, I have begun to think that the Exodus theme may suggest a helpful response to our reality. If present lifestyle patterns continue, perhaps it deserves careful consideration. After all, it does have a number of attractive features.

First, it is a very biblical motif. The scriptures are filled with the theme of deliverance and the promise of fulfilment in the new land of God's provision. Indeed, the scriptures are so saturated with this pattern that it is difficult to read very far anywhere in the Bible without soon encountering it directly or by implication.

For those of us whose theological heritage has stressed the covenant character of God's relationship with his people, it fits right in. The Exodus was an integral part of God's covenant plan. The Passover and the Lord's Supper are directly related to it.

That leads me to my proposal. Perhaps the month of September is the right place in the church year for a covenant renewal ceremony. In the Old Testament era, times of new beginning were marked with covenant renewal observances. On such occasions God's place as Lord of the covenant was again set before his people. God's people were reminded of the Lord's covenant promises and of all that He had done to fulfil them. They were then reminded of their obligation to be faithful in keeping his laws. The ceremony was capped with a reminder of the blessings that God bestowed upon his people and of the fate of disobedience.

Annual renewal

A modern annual covenant renewal ceremony might not be a bad thing — and what better time than September?

This may seem to be a rather arbitrary approach to keeping the covenant claims of the Lord alive in the midst of his people. However, the more I think about it, the more it appeals to me. After all, Passover was an annual celebration, too. While the Lord's Supper is always a covenant reminder to us, why not an annual covenant renewal celebration (which could, of course, culminate in the celebration of the Lord's Supper).

As I see it, the only present equivalent to covenant renewal that we retain is the worship service which some congregations have marking the New Year. In reality, such services have often degenerated into little more than a Christian alternative to secular revelling and have no truly clear focus.

Since so much of a typical North American Christian congregation's life follows the pattern of the school year, September does seem very appropriate for covenant renewal. Many congregations already have services of commissioning for church school teachers and youth leaders in September. Why not go all out and involve the whole congregation! Then every member of the community — in all their various roles and capacities — can renew their pledge of faithfulness to the Covenant Lord who has claimed them in Christ.

I hereby launch my campaign. Let's hear it for covenant renewal. As you commence another year of involvement in the life and fellowship of the Church of Jesus Christ are you ready to reaffirm your commitment to the Lord of the Covenant?

Robert Bernhardt is pastor of Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, Ont.

Guatemalen statesman addresses Christian writers

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (ACTS) — General Efrain Rios Montt, former president of Guatemala, spoke to a meeting of the Christian Writers Guild on June 14.

To the surprise of everyone, the speaker, dressed in civilian clothes, arrived driving his own mid-size automobile, without a chauffeur or bodyguards, which are customary to former presidents and chiefs of state in the most populated Central American country.

From the book of Habakkuk, Montt spoke on the life, liberty and sovereignty that God gave humankind in the beginning, wanting us to be free and not slaves, Montt said, "It is God who has made man free and not the constitution of the country."

"This is the message that we should communicate," reaffirmed the former elder of the "Verbo" church, the office which he resigned when he decided to run for president of Guatemala in the up-coming elections. At the end of his exposition, Rios Montt answered a great number of questions.

"If you are not elected president of Guatemala, what will you say?" someone asked. With his usual firmness, the Christian general (one of at least 12 presidential candidates) said: "In this, as in all things, I'll do God's will."

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Garage sales: some good buys; a lot of junk

The dusty treasures offered at garage sales attract more people every year and consumer experts say there are real bargains out there. Just be careful not to buy anything that could be dangerous, such as used baby cribs and other child care items.

(MCCR) — The bickering, bargaining, bizarre bazaar atmosphere common to most garage sales can be a boon to careful shoppers, consumer experts say.

"It's not like the regular marketplace where most prices are carved in stone," says Marilyn Gurevsky of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations (MCCR). "Garage sales give you the chance to haggle; to pay what you can afford or what an item is worth to you. They — along with auctions, bazaars and other secondary markets — fill a real need in our system. They're also fun."

Every summer, box-loads of cast-off clothes, mismatched china, inappropriate wedding gifts and assorted other denizens of cluttered closets are dragged back to useful life via driveway retail.

According to Gurevsky, the ministry doesn't get many consumer complaints about garage sale purchases. Largely, she believes, because people understand the "as is" nature of the deals.

"Unlike when they are buying from stores, most people inspect garage-sale merchandise carefully," Gurevsky says. "They realize they can't take things back even if they're broken. That doesn't mean sellers can legally lie to you about the condition of their merchandise, but considering the cost of most items compared with the expense and aggravation of going to court, what you buy is what you get."

That's why it's a good idea to test any questionable items before buying, she says. This is particularly true for large items such as major appliances.

Dangerous merchandise

Safety is another concern when buying second-hand goods. The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) recently published a warning to consumers about purchasing used electrical appliances.

The CSA bulletin cited a number of accidents involving garage-sale purchases. In one case, an eight-year-old boy narrowly escaped injury when an electric blanket caught fire. Bought at a garage sale, the blanket turned out to be 28 years old and insulation on the internal wiring had severely deteriorated.

"The dangers inherent in buying used appliances are many — you don't know how old they are, what abuse they have taken, what servicing has been done or the condition of the electrical components," association spokesmen say. "Another point to consider is that newer products may be certified to new or revised standards which make them safer to use."

To avoid dangers, consumer and safety experts advise having appliances checked out by a repair shop before use. Keep that in mind when buying, as the added cost of this service could make garage sale appliance "bargains" prohibitively expensive.

Some used items should be avoided entirely, except by highly knowledgeable consumers, Gurevsky warns. These include many child-care products, such as cribs, car seats, baby gates, playpens, hockey helmets, face protectors, children's clothing and similar merchandise. Safety standards for these items are continually updated and it's difficult to know whether an older model conforms to current requirements.

In fact, it is illegal to market any products not meeting mandatory safety standards. Garage-sale operators would be wise to avoid selling questionable items.

For further details about safety standards, contact the nearest Product Safety Office of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada.

SEEK WISDOM AT ICS THIS FALL

Guided Readings in Worldview Studies 1030
The purpose of this course is to provide junior members with an opportunity to expand and deepen their grasp of fundamental issues in worldview studies. Instructor: *Brian Walsh*.

Psychology 1320
Human nature, counselling and the Christian faith
In this seminar we will explore the connections between psychotherapeutic methods, fundamental assumptions about human life, and the Christian faith. Instructor: *James Olthuis*, Senior Member in Philosophical Theology. **Tuesdays 7:00 to 10:00pm**

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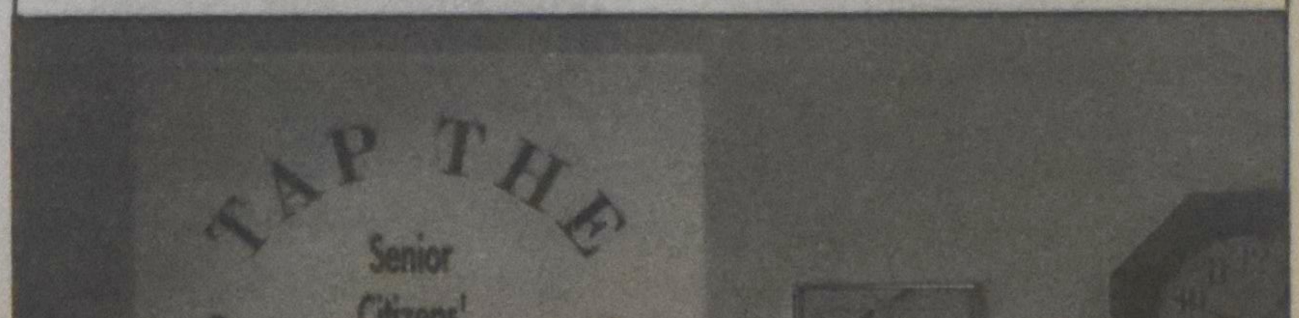
Government poster features C.C. readers



Tapping the potential of seniors Rie and Dirk Jongkind (seated at right).

C.C. Staff

TORONTO — Two distinguished seniors who are part of the *Calvinist Contact* family, Rie and Dirk Jongkind of Toronto, were recently chosen as visual models of older people who use their gifts in constructive ways. A large poster that shows them taking part in a planning meeting has been distributed with text in five languages — 30,000 copies in English, 5,000 in French and 1,000 each in Chinese, Italian and Portuguese.

The poster was reproduced in full colour in the quarterly newspaper *Especially for Seniors*, which is mailed to nearly one million Ontario residents who receive pension cheques.

The poster highlighted the proclamation of June 1989 as "Senior Citizens' Month" by the Ontario government. The Ministry of Senior Citizens' Affairs wants to encourage seniors to use their knowledge and expertise, and it reminds everyone that seniors have a wealth of wisdom to offer.

The Jongkinds are deeply engaged in the ministry of First Christian Reformed Church in Toronto and of The Lighthouse, an inner-city ministry.

Report on Sexual Abuse

"To admit that the terrible evil of sexual abuse exists within the churches is hard. But we must acknowledge it, for only then can we deal with the fear, hurt and shame."

A report prepared by the Advisory Committee on Sexual Abuse appointed by Classis Niagara of the Christian Reformed Church, adopted on May 17, 1989.

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Old Montreal YPSers reunite

Reinder J. Klein

DOLLARD DES ORMEAUX, Qué. — The changes were quite noticeable. There was considerably less hair now, especially on the men, and much of it was running to grey, suggesting maturity and troublesome teenagers. Faces once familiar and lean seemed strange at first, more round and full and somewhat weathered. And during the singing a broad array of spectacles were surreptitiously placed on noses in aid of failing eyesight.

Several persons had clearly grown in ways other than up, and not even the loose-fitting summer shirts could hide the watermelon bellies on some men, especially when they exhaled. Some of the women were still quite trim, yet here too it was generally evident that this group of once young Calvinists had undergone a comfortable broadening of their non-spiritual foundations.

They had come from all over the world for this July 22-29 reunion, the first formal get-together in three decades of the often rambunctious, usually irreverent and always irrepressible Young People's Society of Montreal of the late 1950s.

One came from as far away as East Devon in Tasmania. Another came from Vienna, Austria. Two had to come back from Holland, four returned for the occasion from the U.S., one came from Alberta and 11 drove up from Ontario. The 10 still living in or near Montreal were there as a matter of course, having looked after much of the preparations.

It was in many ways a typical old Montreal YPS affair: well-planned, but in a way that downplayed structure and allowed for a maximum of spontaneous, off-the-cuff activity and interaction.

Among the highlights was a Saturday evening of short speeches, meeting spouses and mentioning offspring, of new and some old jokes.

The special evening service on Sunday in what is still known, after all these years, as the First (rather than the Only) Christian Reformed Church of Montreal, was inspired and inspiring, the singing as exquisitely robust as it always was in Montreal. And the tour on Monday of old familiar haunts in Laval des Rapides, Park Extension, on Mount Royal and along the waterfront was unforgettable.

The visit to the new Seafarers Centre, home of the CRC's Seaway Ministry, was especially moving. Many of those present had already brought a witness to ships in port even before Rev. Uittenbosch was appointed to direct the work.

Tuesday through Thursday were run as an old-fashioned Montreal YPS weekend in a retreat place called Centre de l'Amour near the town of Plantagenet, halfway between Montreal and Ottawa. Once a motel, the centre is run by volunteers of the Roman Catholic persuasion and boasts, besides a chapel, comfortable beds, clean bathrooms, a huge meeting hall, dining room (with excellent food and superb service!), grassy fields and a fine swimming pool.

This sort of "roughing it," to which one is reduced some 30 years after turning 20, was found to be bearable, especially by those whose rooms were air-conditioned.

Among the activities, volleyball was a clear favourite, despite the missed serves, the feeble "spikes," the outlandish grunts and the totally out of control bodies crashing into each other and the net. The competitive spirit still fierce, some people even kept score and declared one team the winner (cheats!). It was an absolute scream.

Nor were frenetic activities the only option. Several people were heavily into spectating, offering uproarious and somewhat disrespectful advice to the sweaty set. Others preferred to take gentle strolls or engage in quiet chats. Most participated in the Bible discussion, and no one missed the wonderful videos wrought of old super-8 movies made ages ago at rallies and retreats when everyone was bright and hard and eager. Ah, youth!

The Laurentian trip, the visit to Old Montreal and the closing banquet were also memorable. During the latter event John Klein, currently of Ottawa, was singled out as having been the one who most consistently provided leadership to the old gang and who put his unique stamp of disarming humour and frivolity on the early Montreal YPS. It was he, too, who some years ago first suggested the reunion and who led the preparations that culminated in this hugely enjoyable event.

Photo: courtesy John Klein

"The often rambunctious, usually irreverent and always irrepressible Young People's Society of Montreal of the late '50s."

In the closing prayer at the Centre de l'Amour, with everyone in a big circle holding hands, it was acknowledged that in this life many would not likely see each other again. Yet this now far-flung group of old friends, thrown together at one time through the apparent vagaries of their immigration experience, gave thanks for rich blessings and incomprehensible grace.

It was also mentioned they looked forward with anticipation to the day they will hold hands again in a better place and under even happier circumstances. This expectation, perhaps more than anything else, made the 1989 reunion of the old Montreal YPS special indeed.

SEEK WISDOM AT ICS THIS FALL

Technology Studies 1410
Living in a culture of technology: a reading-tutorial course
This course is devoted to looking at the nature of technology. Over one third of the time is devoted to individual inquiry.
Instructor: *Robert Hudspith*, Lecturer in Engineering, McMaster University, Hamilton.

Arts and Communications 1620
An introduction to aesthetics and understanding art
How to hear a poem, how to view a painting or sculpture, how to read a short story, how to make theatre-going more worthwhile: direct confrontation with artworks.
Instructor: *Calvin Seerveld*, Senior Member in Aesthetics.

This course will be offered every second and fourth Wednesday of the month from September 1989 through April 1990, 7 to 10 p.m.

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Translation and typesetting by Ethnic/Ad Inc.

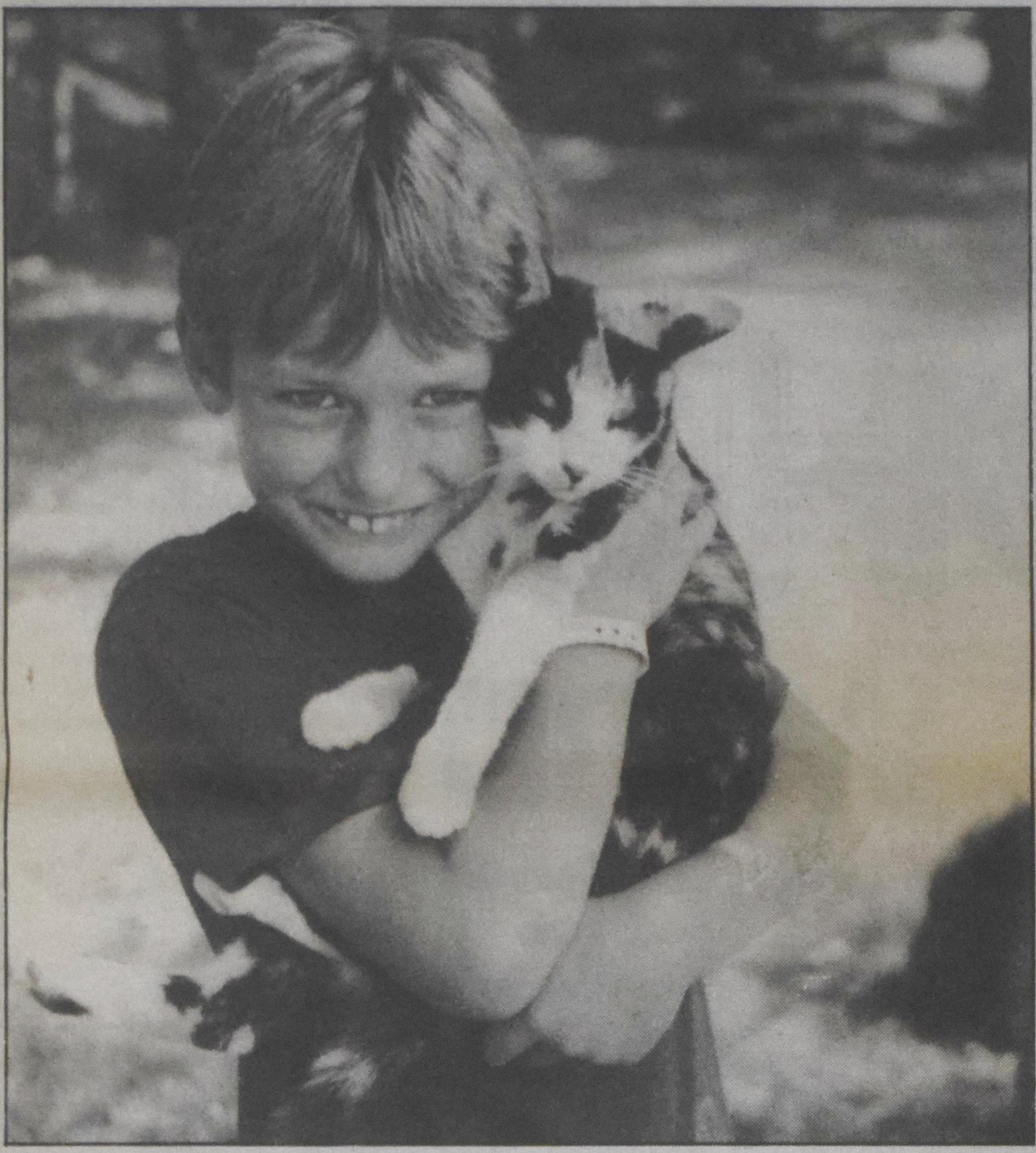
Gallery of grief and hope

Mary Steenland

The following snatches of material are descriptions of the thoughts and feelings of Mary Steenland, a mother who lost her nine-year-old boy in a car accident last year. It's a story of incredible pain and courage. Through it we see a profile of her son. We read about organ donation and the sensitive, caring attitude of doctors and nurses. There are questions that search for meaning. These are not academic questions to be quickly answered by a professional, let alone to be corrected. When it's your child that was killed, you ask real questions. We publish this material with Mary Steenland's permission. We inserted some of her poems whenever it seemed appropriate, and included a letter from a doctor who supervised the organ donation program.

Editor

Aaron's accident



Just a year ago, when the sounds and taste of spring 1988 were in the air, a little boy, almost 10 years old, put on his rubber boots, picked up a handmade net and set out with his friend for a local creek to look for whatever was coming to life. It was Aaron's all-consuming dream to someday become a scientist, a marine biologist to be specific, and any trip to a creek or pond was a delight. But on that evening of April 29, 1988, Aaron never made it to the creek; he made it to Toronto Hospital for Sick Children instead.

In his attempt to cross the road in front of his home, Aaron was struck by a speeding motorist. He rolled up over the hood of the car, over the windshield, his rubber boots flying off into the air, and he landed 90 feet down the road. He was declared dead from head injury on May 2, just two days before he was to celebrate his 10th birthday.

Aaron became part of the price our society pays for a materialistic fast-paced world in which life is secondary to suburban homes, vacations, new cars and the latest in baby strollers. The same motorists who flew past Aaron trying to cross the road, now unknowingly fly past his grave in the small cemetery a short distance down the road.

death
great rip-off
snatches innocents
untimely
torn away
hungry hustler
tears and blood
enough
life's impotence
no
second time around

The myth that Christians (are supposed to) walk through death and the deaths of their loved ones without pain, without grief, as if the fact that they are Christians somehow magically protects them from that pain, must be obliterated. A Christian does not grieve as though he had no hope, but grieve he/she does, and that grief involves the whole person, in every dimension of his/her life.

i choke on grief
it swallows me whole
death will not be my friend
i will not have death in for tea
no amenities no courtesy
i will not will i
swallowed
whole

No platitudes can touch that and Christians do not have some protective coating surrounding them that protects them from that any more than they are protected from being beaten by their husbands or run over by motor vehicles.

If Christians are ever going to effectively minister to each other and to others outside of our own communities, we have to 1) stop talking and behaving as if problems are not real, and 2) stop pretending we have all the answers.

When we ask God to protect our children when they are out of sight, does he? Does he protect some and not others? Could he have prevented Aaron's accident? Could he have kept him here with us in spite of the accident? Does he give more protection to some than to others? Is that protection there at all?

he left collections
stamps and stones
fossils, insects, rodent bones
he doesn't need them

he left behind his winter coat
rubber boots and favourite hat
i guess he doesn't need them

he left his cat
his microscope and books
he doesn't need them either

he left us behind

Is it the wrong thing to ask for protection when your children leave the house? Does it make any difference? Could God have prevented Aaron's death, but would not? decided not to? Is it possible that God could not have prevented it? Is God all-powerful? Is God all-loving?

I feel as though I have been turned inside out and I don't have the answers and I have not found anyone who does, but I have found people willing to think out loud with me. And then there is the possibility that these questions are all wrong in themselves.

And what about the question: if God calls us to raise up our children to love him and to make a contribution to life on this earth and to participate in bringing about God's restoration and his Kingdom, why take away one of the very children capable of becoming the kind of adult who will and can do just that? Why take a child who is not only propelling himself into science, but is doing it with love in his heart for God and for all creatures he encounters in his life ... a child who would enter the sciences with a concern for the environment, for conservation of wildlife, for using the sciences in a constructive rather than in a destructive way?

And if this is a bad joke, it is a very bad joke indeed.

who made the tea
when the cup came back to me
overflowing salt water?
i ask you
who made the tea?

who has blood on his hands?

And at what point do the questions themselves die unanswered and then the only thing left to do is to trust. Or is there trust in asking the hard questions? And again, are the questions wrong?

To insist that it is God's will that a child who was a loving, healthy, bright participant in our lives is suddenly torn away, is to assume that we have the kind of god who wills speeding motorists to run down our children in the street.

To seek to redesign the face of someone who is in a state of shock and raw with pain, by demanding that (s)he smile because "Jesus loves you" is an immensely mistaken, albeit well-meaning, response to someone who indeed needs the assurance of God's love in the face of devastating loss. While a cheerful facade may serve to make others more comfortable, there is no quick fix for this.

who will curse the darkness with me

smile — Jesus loves you
count on us count on us count us on

silver linings thorns on roses
all the mysteries God discloses
once we see the golden throne

incensed now in flesh and bone
shout outrage

curse the dark alone

There is no quick fix and Jesus is certainly not a quick fix.

If I had been God, my little mind and heart tell me, I'd have done things differently. When Jesus arose from the grave, stood up and walked around, I would have called it "game over" right there. I would have seen him say "O.K. guys, this is it ... right here and right now, death has had it, no more death, no more pain, no more war, no more accidents, no more plane crashes, no more children falling into open wells, this is it."

This in-between time, really, what for? What is the point?

It is fortunate that I am not God, and there must indeed be some presumption in thinking I'd have done it differently, and, in so doing, done it better. But it does indeed make me *long* for the fulfilment of God's promise of complete restoration and it makes me lament more deeply for what a mess humankind has made of this earth and what a mess we continue to make of it and at some point I cry out "enough already!"

ride the rain-and-fire lion, boy
wrap your thin arms about his
great shaggy neck
ride the lion's brawny back, his mane
catching sun-gold and kissing
warm your brown skin
know in your blood and bone the
love of the lion
(Written for Aaron with Aslan in mind)

Mary Steenland lives in Pickering, Ont., with her four children.

Feature

Letter to Hospital for Sick Children

October 29, 1988

Dear Dr. Edmonds and Staff,

One year ago, my nine-year-old son and I went together for a walk through the local cemetery. It had been Aaron's persistent request over the summer months that we take this walk. Last October, with his brothers and sisters otherwise occupied, I thought it opportune to go off together for awhile.

It was a chill, damp day but we walked among the headstones talking about the people who had come from other countries, why they may have come, what their lives might have been like. We noted the deaths of soldiers and infants, discussing why a child may have died. We noted the very old age of others. We talked about the designs of the stones, the older obelisk and neo-classical stones, the military stones, stones with pictures of the deceased and the stone depicting a large suburban house with double-car garage etched on the front. We talked about how what people held most dear in life was often revealed in their grave markers.

Today Aaron's headstone stands with the others, along the ridge of a ravine full of brilliant Maples, in that same cemetery just down the road from my home.

When we had finished our walk through the cemetery, having checked out not only the stones but the freshly dug grave as well, Aaron turned to me and said, "When I die, I'm going to ask God for my bones." How typical of this child! Aaron was an avid collector of everything ... stones, shells, postage stamps (with a specialty in aquatic life), stickers, buttons, erasers, feathers, specimens for his microscope (mouldy cheese was a popular item, along with insect wings, a shrimp skin and flower petals), insects and bones.

Aaron was determined to become a scientist, a marine biologist to be specific. He made his own microscope slides and was a proud owner of a complete rat skeleton which he obtained himself from a dead rat the good Lord provided on our front door-step. He constantly surprised us with morsels of information he had picked up in library books and magazines, information about flies and rainbows, stickle-back fish and spitting fish. His hero was David Suzuki.

But his avid curiosity and desire to learn about nature was not what was most special about Aaron. More significant than the desire to learn was its combination with a deep *love* for everything around him that emanated in his regard for all of the earth's creatures as fellow creatures. He showed the same tenderness and love for fish, anoles and crabs as any child would show towards cats and dogs. He was the first always to point out the beauty of his discoveries and surroundings.

Had he lived to become a scientist, as he had hoped, I am convinced that he would have become the kind of scientist who would have directed his work from out of his love for the planet we all share and a love for his fellow human beings.

It is exactly this rare combination of intellectual thoroughness and technical know-how, with gentleness of spirit and sensitive compassion, that I found among the staff in the Intensive Care Unit at the Hospital for Sick Children, who ministered to Aaron. Your care for Aaron and for those of us who loved him, as family and friends, was nothing less than superb.

My experience with Aaron in your care has shown me what a hospital can be like, that efficiency and technology need not obliterate genuine compassion and meaningful communication. I cannot find words sufficient to tell you how very grateful I am for the care and concern that accompanied the skill with which you cared for my child.

The nurse who always talked to Aaron as she treated him, the doctor who allowed me to lie on the cool floor, the receptionist who graciously put through calls for me, the nurse who invited Aaron's little brother to listen to his brother's heart-beat, the sounds of your voices, have all left a comforting and indelible imprint within my heart and consciousness. The fact that you were direct and up-front with me from the onset about Aaron's condition, without offering unrealistic expectations or dashing what little hope there was for his recovery, meant a great deal to me and helped me to entrust Aaron to you without reservation.

Your trust in me and regard for the access order and my position as a single parent under the stress of difficult circumstances was not only reassuring to me, but to my other four children as well, in their concern for their brother's well-being and our own integrity as a family. Your generosity in allowing supportive friends to accompany and surround me and Aaron became an essential factor in their support through the months of grieving that have followed.

I am thankful as well for your opening to me the option of organ donation. There have been aspects of that decision which have been difficult to live with and work through emotionally. However, I have not for Aaron's sake and for the sake of those whom it has helped, ever regretted that decision.

There is no "thank you" expansive enough to encompass the gratitude I feel for your clarity of mind and presence of spirit during those brief yet interminable days, as it became increasingly evident that this beautiful child whom we loved was not likely to survive his injury.

God bless you all in your continued work and in your lives.

Sincerely,
Mary Steenland

Stormwalkers
spread-eagled beneath the pure
pounding thunder of the beach
i lie
you wrap my porous heart
in lemon yellow and limpid blue
imponderable as death
your love drapes me in linen
sandal-shod

stormwalkers
Mary

Letter from MORE (Multiple Organ Retrieval & Exchange)

May 5, 1988

Dear Mrs. Steenland:

On behalf of the MORE Program, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincerest thanks for allowing your son to become an organ donor. The only consolation arising from such a tragedy is that through your thoughtfulness two sick people on dialysis have received Aaron's kidneys and are regaining their health. As well, a patient with terminal liver disease now has a better chance for survival after undergoing a liver transplant. The heart valves were used in preparation for heart valve transplantation. Also, as a result of your permission for eye donation, two blind patients have had their sight restored by corneal transplantation.

This marks the beginning of a new life for these recipients — a life free from the medical, social and financial restrictions of their illnesses. These patients and the members of the transplant units thank you, for it would not have been possible without your consideration.

I realize that Aaron's death must represent a great loss to you and your family. I only hope that the news of these successful transplants may help to soften your anguish.

Yours sincerely,

Michael A. Robinette, M.D.
Director

Organ donation

I feel it is extremely important for Christians to consider organ donation as a way of making the restoration of life that Jesus came to redeem, a reality in the lives of one another.

Mary

... Like a child

Agnes Kramer-Hamstra

I have often wondered what Jesus meant when he said, "Let the children come to me. Do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God." I come to this part of the Word with Nicodemus-like questions: ... Like a child? How does a child receive? I believe the answer has many facets, like a kaleidoscope. The part of the kaleidoscope I would like to look at is how we receive the Kingdom in terms of three very strong elements found in each child: 1) love of story, 2) use of imagination, 3) deep-seated trust.

1) Tell us a story!

The Old Testament and the gospels are full of story. The Word-Made-Flesh treated his disciples to many stories. Why story? Story gets at meaning, at "why," in a way that encompasses the many levels of truth. We go back to story repeatedly, taking out now one, now another part, (according to the Spirit's particular way with us), considering it, putting it back into the whole until the Word finds an ever deeper place to dwell within us. Let me use an event in Elisha's life (II Kings 6:8-23) as an example.

When we first read this account, we listen for what happened, catching our breath at the tension and sighing or laughing about the resolution. Enemy king sends out crack paratroopers to engage in guerilla warfare. Israel always seems prepared. Who is the spy in our inner circle? No one here but Elisha, that prophet in Israel. Somehow he knows every word you whisper in your very bedroom! All right, let's get him.

A huge army tramps away to capture one unarmed man. At dawn they surround the city. Elisha's servant wakes up, sees the troops, trembles in his sandals. Elisha reassures him, "... Those who are with us are more than those who are with them. Lord, open his eyes." The servant sees the greater, fiery army on the mountains, surrounding little Benhadad's tiny army.

Elisha then asks God to shut the eyes of Benhadad's army. So it goes, and we see a blinded army padding obediently down the road behind Elisha and his servant, like puppies ("This guy knows the right way, good thing he came along to show us!"). Their eyes are opened (with a heart-sinking *pop*) in none other than Jehoram's courtyard. What happens next is even more astounding — expecting sure death, they are feasted and released! The Syrians, we are told, stop their raids on Israel (for a time). This story resounds with our God's humour.

The story shines with New Testament vision. It points to Christ calling for deeper, far-sighted faith, to the new covenant where God entertains his enemies, where Christ-followers learn to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves with the enemy, seeing them with Spirit-opened eyes.

Allusions to sight permeate this story. Who sees? The servant sees the enemy and trembles. Elisha sees the army of heaven poised. The enemy sees they've taken the wrong road. What do we see? Are we seeing the enemy *and* God's army? What is our vision?

Finally, the story speaks deep comfort to the spirits of those who see the enemy, the principalities and powers amassing, trembling to see them gaining strength and fury in a post-Christian era. The increasingly pervasive powers of the enemy leave our environment gasping for breath, our educational system clogged with children (and increasingly, teachers), too emotionally, mentally and spiritually unsettled to learn (or teach), and so on. Elisha's words to his servant, "Fear not, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them," find their way into our frightened spirits and dwell there. And from that Word (dwelling in us richly) we may gain strength to go on and, by the mighty Spirit of Christ, lead the enemy down the garden path, where they may wake up disarmed in the courts of Mighty King.

2) Just imagine!

One very strong element in children is their imaginations. I believe this part of each one of us is a muscle we need to exercise in order to be enabled to receive the Kingdom of God open-armed, wholeheartedly.

When I speak of imagination, I do not mean the embellishment of truth, the concocting of fanciful, "fake" stories. Using imagination is to make real. It is to try to put into mere words the inexplicable wonder of the One whose love made human beings to be the crowning gem of a teeming and intricately magnificent creation. It is to try and meet the I AM, whose mercy and injustice are one — unspeakable. To imagine is to try and articulate the unimaginable: a *new* earth, a *beautiful* city.

Spirit-quickened imagination plays a part in taking scripture/Word and making it flesh in our lives. "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows."

Who is my enemy? What is on the table? What does the healing and fragrant oil anoint me for? Do I accept, receive and eat what is on the table, making it part of my being? Each one will have a different set of answers to these

Continued on page 15....

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... Like a child

... continued from page 14.
questions.

It takes the help of the imagination to pick up the symbols offered to us in Scripture and to make them real in our lives. For example: the enemy may be a spirit of anger and violence that has passed unchecked (Ex. 20:5) from one generation to the next. One may see the table set by very God, in the presence of this enemy, a table heaped and sagging with spiritual fruit: specifically, self-control, gentleness, patience (Gal. 5:22-23). Accepting the fruit is a spiritual move. *Eating* it, in the crunch of day to day life, is the step by step digesting of what one has accepted, in faith. Anointed with (fragrant oil) the Holy Spirit's presence, one begins to check the anger daily in a multitude of different ways. The war is won, the battles remain to be fought, one by one.

Imagination helps us to receive the Kingdom by developing the inner landscape of our faith. Where is my Jordan, my Gethsemane, my Pentecost? Here, I keep vigil, continue marching seven times seven times around my rebellious, habitual, generational strongholds, my Jericho. There, I keep my eyes forward-looking, to the City, not nostalgically and falsely focused on the garden. Can I hear them? — the voices from the cloud of witnesses, the Voice becoming increasingly familiar as I journey nearer and nearer.

3) Trust deeply!

One receives the Kingdom with trust. One believes the Story, trusts the Story-Teller, *knows* that what the eyes of faith have seen is real. Children (initially) trust deeply. Trust understands unconditional love. When we, in childlike trust, throw all of our self into the care of our Adonai, believing with strength, power, love, we receive God's Kingdom. We trust when we know there will be a slingshot and stones for our Goliath. We trust there is a table set for us in the presence of our enemy. When we know the One in that way, we can walk the valley of the shadow of death because ABBA is there, within calling distance of our frightened, bewildered, confused, defeated, grieving, trusting cry.

And ABBA is the one, who, like a big, strong mama, hen-gatherer of chicks, tells you as you go out, "tell them I AM sent you." I AM is the one who we can trust. I AM is *always*. And when you are walking the empty darkness of the valley and the shadows are ominous and fleeting, sometimes you need to sing softly (or loudly!) to yourself (and others), a child-song: "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do."

To be so trustingly childlike is to deeply respond to symbol, trusting it's true, it's true, it is indisputably right and *is, will be,* as surely as tomorrow comes.

I will briefly tell you a story to show how deeply symbol and trust dwell in the child. This really happened ....

It was 1967. David, a teenager, found himself in a place of drug abuse, squalor, confusion and pain. It was a commune, and there was his sister and her eight-month old baby. He was frightened to death for the child who had learned to plug her ears to head-splitting acid rock, who was raw and covered with rash from neglect. David knew how resourceless he was, helpless and limited. The immediate diaper-changing and cleaning needs he could meet. But he was only a visitor: what happened when he was not there?

The situation overwhelmed him. In his desperation he called on ABBA. He did the most profound thing he could imagine or think of doing in answer to what was happening in that place: he baptized the child, then and there, in the stinking crib. It was the most powerful symbol of God's protection that he knew at the time. It was to him symbol of God's power, grace and mercy. Baptism. He imagined the baptism covering and protecting the child, an angel standing guard with a sword.

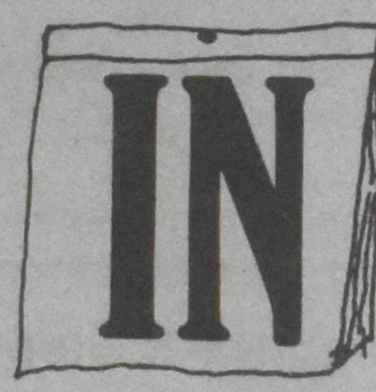
And it was so.

The child grew, wholesome and strong.

May we, as Christ's body, become ever stronger in our inner beings, to receive and allow the Story to be enfleshed in our lives. May we consciously develop that landscape of faith in our journey towards and in that Kingdom.

Agnes Kramer-Hamstra lives in Ingersoll, Ont.

Peter and Marja are



Dear P and M:

Since my father passed away about 10 years ago I've been taking care of my mother. She suffers from arthritis and heart trouble and needs constant care. Her hearing is bad and she can hardly walk. For the last year-and-a-half she has had private 24-hour nursing care in her apartment. She was quite well off financially but now her money is disappearing quickly.

Four weeks ago she fell and broke several ribs and was rushed to the hospital. The doctor refused to let her go back to her own place. He arranged for her to be admitted to a nursing home where she has been for the last two weeks. She is furious, especially with me. She says that I'm after her money (I'm an only child) and tells lies about me behind my back. In the meantime I have to store her furniture and other belongings and her apartment should be sold. But she won't sign a thing. She refuses to co-operate in any way. In fact, she refuses to talk to me. I'm deeply hurt about this because we've always had an excellent relationship.

I realize how awful it must be for her to share a room with someone else and to leave all her lovely things behind. Yet I have no choice but to follow her doctor's orders. Even with home nursing care she didn't have the care she needed.

My husband says I should leave her alone for the time being. Should I? Or should I keep trying to re-establish our previous relationship?

Dear Deeply Hurt:

Your mother is legitimately depressed. She has to vent her anger and frustration about these sudden changes in her living arrangements. Don't take it personally.

Notice that the decision was made on medical grounds. You are only abiding by doctor's orders.

It would be good to discuss her current behaviour with her doctor. Her lies and accusations could be symptomatic of Alzheimer's or another illness related to aging.

In the meantime continue to give her your love and attention. These words from the Apostle Paul apply to your situation: "As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Gal. 6:10). The excellent relationship that you enjoyed together in the past may gradually return as your mother works through her anger and accepts these new realities.

A conversation with the nursing home director or your pastor will reassure you that this is a common experience. Many adult children have taken the brunt of their parents' anger when they've been admitted to a nursing home.

Be sad about it. But don't feel guilty. Remember: guilt trips are always given but need not be taken.

Dear P and M:

Can a person be a Christian and not have a desire to witness? Does witnessing come naturally? If so, I have doubts about my faith. I must honestly admit that I would rather keep my mouth shut about who God is and what my faith is like unless people ask me about it.

It's not that I'm ashamed of my faith. I suspect that I would even die for it if called upon. But I hate to tell people about things they don't seem to be interested in.

A friend of mine says that I should be concerned about the eternal destination of others. I guess I should be but I'm much more inclined to worry about their present condition, be it depression or poverty.

Dear Not Pushy:

Some are called to be evangelists; but every Christian is a witness. Your loving concern for your neighbour's well-being is a powerful testimony to the love of Christ. And it comes naturally.

It seems to us that you do have a desire to witness. You just don't want to offend anyone by pushing the gospel on them. Door-to-door evangelism is not your style: lifestyle witnessing is.

The mere fact that people have telephones doesn't give businesses the right to push their products. Similarly, the mere fact that people have ears doesn't give Christians the right to push their beliefs. We need to earn the privilege of sharing our faith with someone. Then our witness will find a welcome.

Outreach organizations such as the Mennonite Central Committee, the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee and World Vision have taught the church that the strongest witness is a word and deed ministry. One preaches the living Bread after everyone's been fed.

The Apostle Peter writes that we should "... always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect ..." (I Peter 3:15). It sounds as if you're ready to do exactly that.

The same apostle also supports the way you naturally witness to Christ's love when he writes: "Live such good lives ... that they may see your good deeds and glorify God ..." (I Peter 2:12).

Support the Word and Deed ministries in the inner-city through: "All Nations" Chr. Fellowship, Chinese Chr. Fellowship, the Sponsorship agency Toronto area, South East Asian outreach, and other social services.

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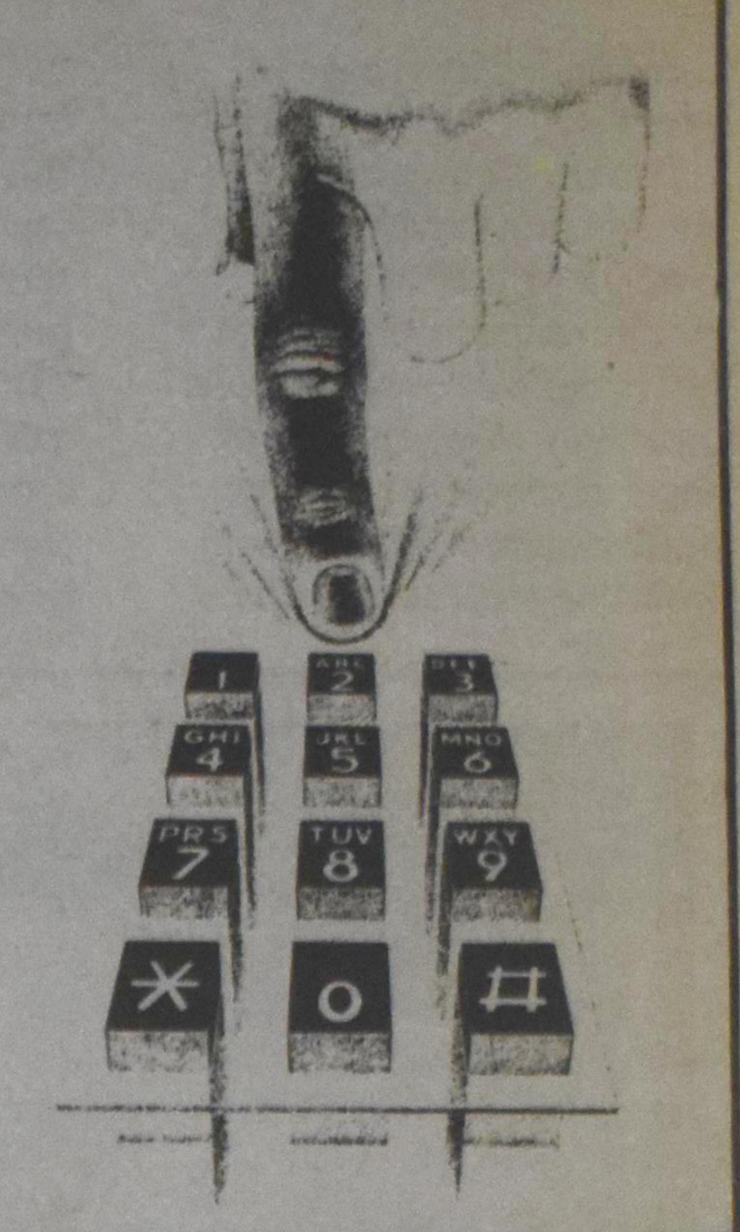

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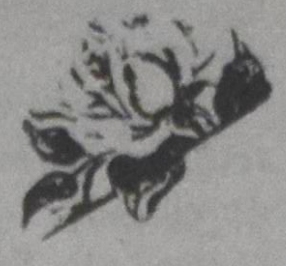

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Christian school students help shut-ins

Louisa F. Bruinsma

EDMONTON — Learning has taken on a different twist for some North Edmonton Christian School students each Thursday afternoon. Over half of the students in Grade 9, when given a choice of several alternatives, opted to spend an afternoon each week with residents at the Dickinsfield Extended Care Centre.

"Christians can't work in isolation from their community," insists Peter Prinsen, principal of North Edmonton Christian School. "It is important to have students involved in the community at large."

There is no doubt students *do* learn. For Alice VanderVelde, visiting the extended care residents taught her respect for all people, regardless of their limited abilities. Chris Huisman admitted that seeing the confusion in the Alzheimer's patients made him sad, but said "... Participating in this work helps to make me more responsible as a person." Becky Sanford said, "You develop your abilities to help others."

Janet Schuring's volunteering involved helping one resident with her school work. Janet assisted her with her reading. "These people need a lot of help," she said. "They like being with you because there aren't many people coming in to visit. I realized there are so many who are in desperate need of other people."

Long-term relationships sometimes do develop, says Prinsen. Some students keep up their visits even during spring break and summer vacation.

Iris Wood is the co-ordinator of volunteer services at Dickinsfield. "Time and again," she says, "we hear bad things about teenagers, but when you see them crouching down to listen to a patient in a wheelchair, you see that these teenage kids are pretty wonderful. They are far more interested in other people than we give them credit for."

"The people are really grateful," said Christine Veldkamp.

School administrators say that learning in the Christian school goes beyond educating for personal success. Spending time with the lonely and the often forgotten ones of our society is one way the students can develop an attitude of caring towards others in our communities, what Christ referred to as "giving a cup of water in my name."

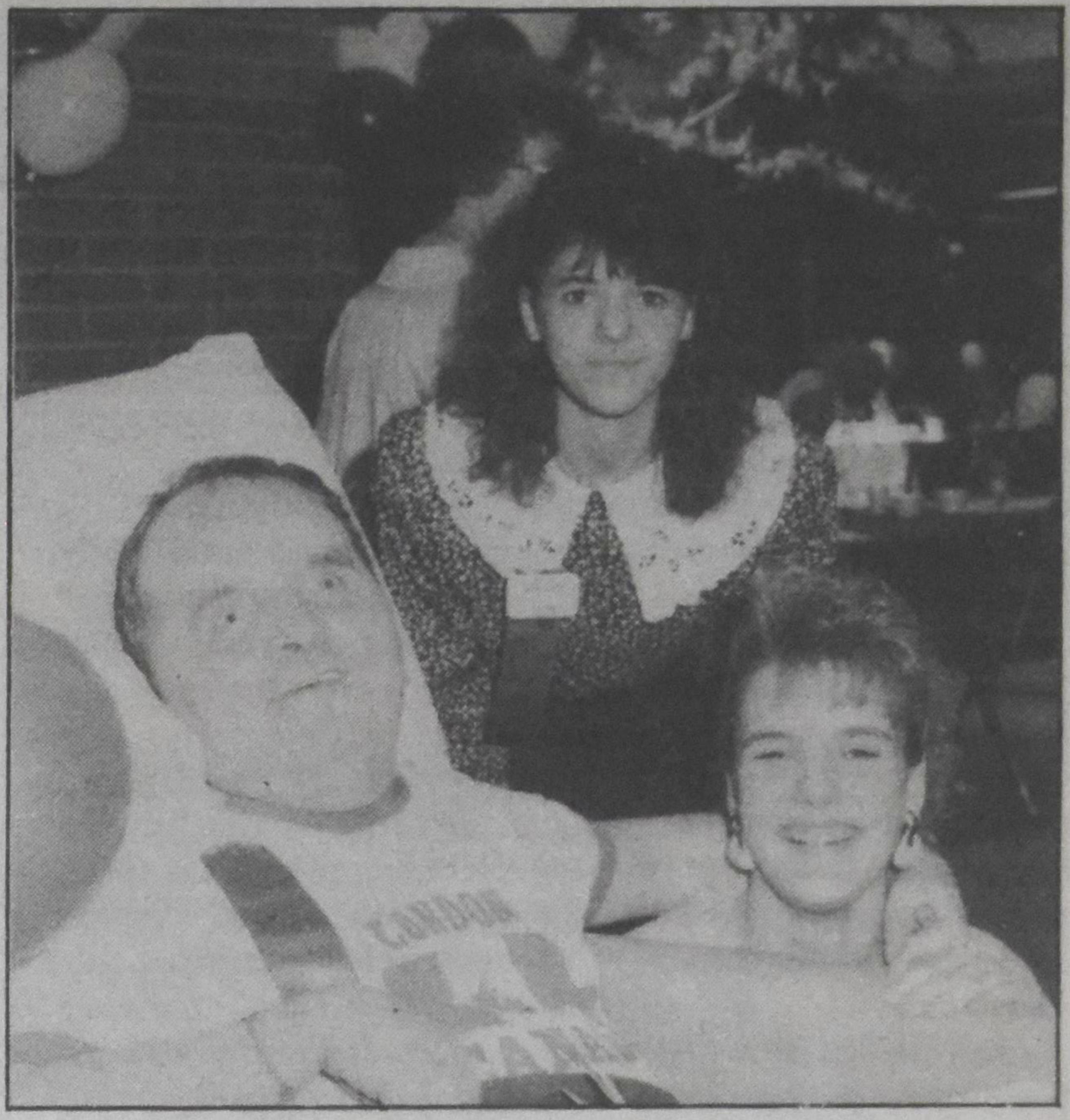
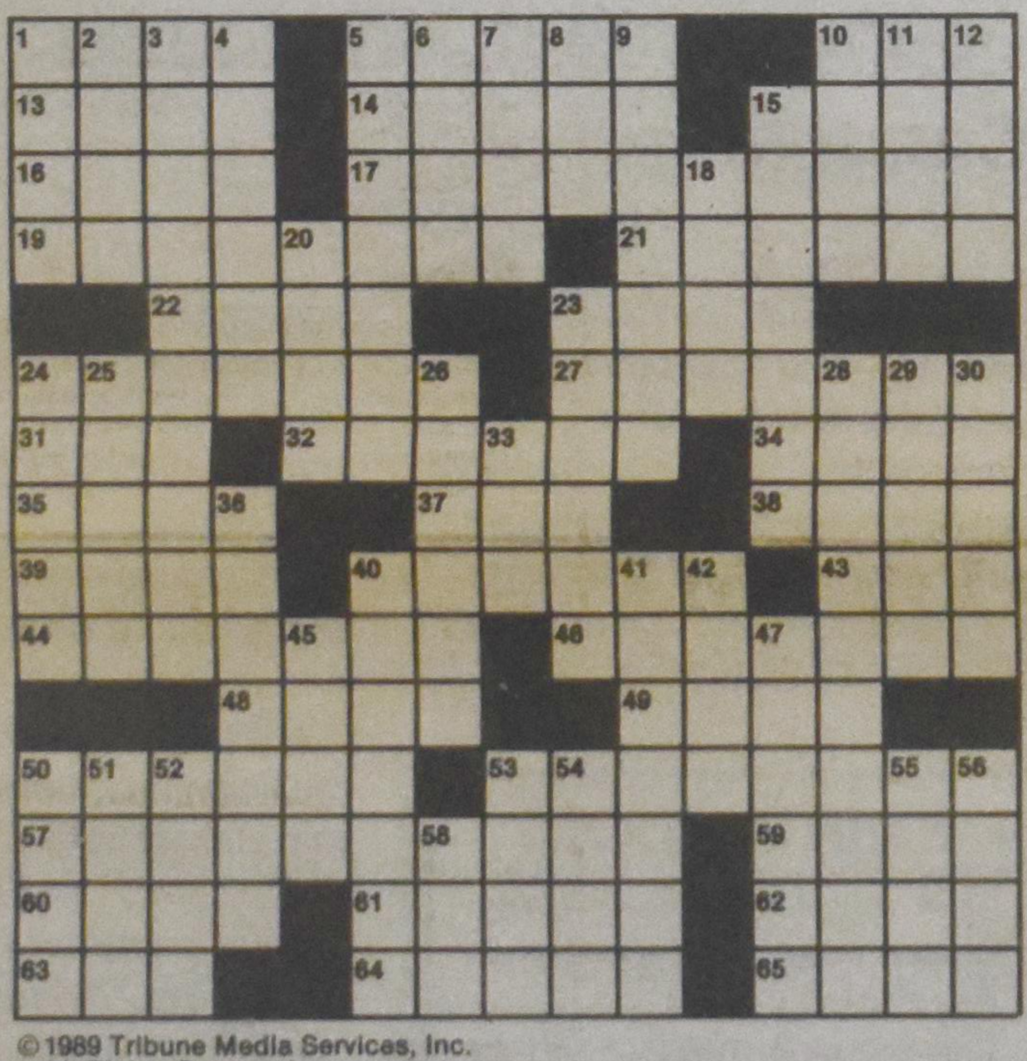


Photo: Louisa F. Bruinsma

Edmonton students Michelle Prinsen (rear) and Alice VanderVelde enjoy their visits with Joe Schouinard at Dickinsfield Extended Care Centre.

Weekly puzzle by Wilson McBeath



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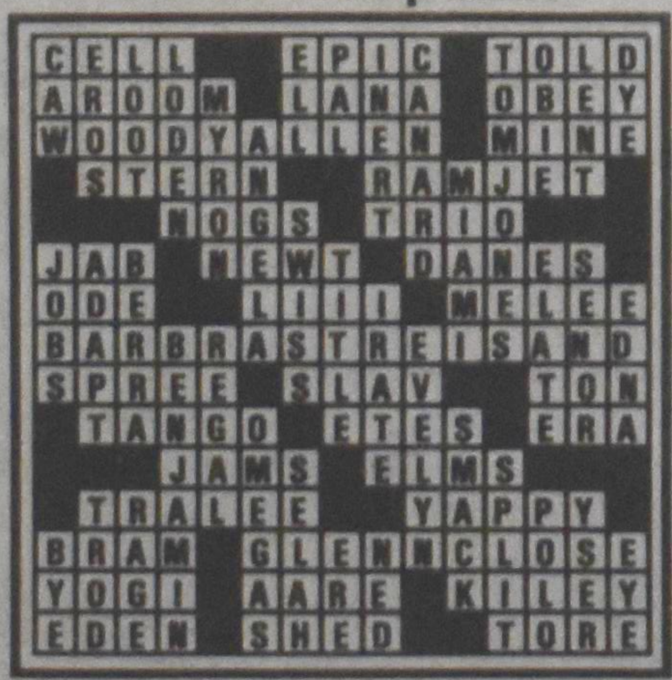
ACROSS
1 Intrepid
5 Strength
10 OPEC product
13 Weapon for Athos
14 Of sheep
15 Division word
16 Shea team
17 Listens
19 Gooselike
21 Use a canoe
22 Worry
23 DeValera's country
24 Hippie kin
27 One with a loud voice
31 Curve
32 Card game
34 Tony Musante TV role
35 Prevaricates
37 Formerly called
38 Throne
39 Revue part
40 Liquid or frozen things
43 Article
44 City on the Columbia
46 Raye and Graham
48 Smut
49 Meditate
50 Treeless plain
53 Like a fez
57 Sign of indifference
59 Mickey and Minnie
60 Soccer star
61 "Dallas" name
62 In the past
63 Append
64 Senegal city
65 Thin as a —

DOWN
1 Eastern church part
2 Unseal
3 Bite-the-bullet statement
4 Forsake
5 Sagacious
6 Hot spot
7 Oenologist's concern
8 Goal
9 Hiatus
10 United
11 Type type: abbr.
12 Knowledge
15 Starts a paragraph
18 Swiss river
20 Lacoste
23 Honor
24 Light wood
25 Estrada and Satie
26 Atchison native
28 Meet a standard
29 Neb. city
30 Is important
33 Legal point
36 Bottle cork
40 Regional atmosphere
41 Bartender
42 Broadway signs
45 Path
47 Vibration
50 Hemingway to friends
51 Served well
52 Shape
53 Chat
54 Opera solo
55 — homo!
56 Feat
58 Guidonian note

Last Week's puzzle



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Politics 1820
Christianity and politics: foundations and issues
This course will examine the particular role of politics and the law in God's world and consider how we can biblically understand the major trends of modern life.
Instructor: *Paul Marshall,* Senior Member in Political Theory. **Tuesdays, 7 to 10 p.m.**

Education 1580
Philosophical issues in Christian educational thought
Recent contributions to philosophy of education by thinkers representing a variety of Christian traditions will be critically analyzed.
Instructor: *Harry Fernhout,* Senior Member in Philosophy of Education.
Wednesdays, 7 to 10 p.m.

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Florida poetry prize was a scam

TORONTO (CP) — Grant Skiffington thought he had captured a poet's dream.

Skiffington, a 36-year-old mechanic from suburban Scarborough, said he used all his family savings and borrowed money — more than $2,000 in total — to pay his way to the World of Poetry convention in Florida.

Skiffington said he believed he was the sole recipient of an important poetry award after receiving letters from the Sacramento, Calif., company and talking to poetry editor Eddie-Lou Cole on the telephone.

But he said he was devastated to discover he is only one of hundreds who have paid to accept the award.

Mary Jane Calandri, a World of Poetry employee, said that 2,000 people around the world have been awarded the gold poet award and 3,000 have received the silver award this year.

About 2,100 people, including friends and family, are expected to attend the three-day convention, Calandri said.

Sacrificed vacation

Skiffington, who has three children and works as a heating and air conditioner mechanic, said he could not afford to take his wife with him, and the family sacrificed a vacation this year so he could pick up his prize.

"I'm shocked," Skiffington said when he heard of the other winners. "I'm so disappointed. I just can't believe this.

"I guess when I think of it, they never exactly said I was the only one — but they said that I was getting the gold medal, the highest award, and who do you give your highest award to?"

Skiffington said he was told by Cole he was "the first Canadian to win the award." Cole was not available for comment.

To attend the convention's banquet, poetry workshops and entertainment — including a performance by actor Vincent Price — Skiffington sent the requested $395 U.S. to the firm. Spouses and family members are charged $295 to attend. The money was refundable only with 30 days' notice.

Skiffington is paying his own air fare and hotel bill. The entire trip will cost him about $2,000, he said.

Many called and chosen

Calandri said 21 Canadians, including eight in Ontario and four in Quebec, also won awards and were invited to the convention.

Kathleen Robertson of Brampton, Ont., said she was notified by letter several months ago that she had won the silver medal for a poem she sent to the company three years ago. But she decided not to go to Florida, because she couldn't spare time from her job and she "thought you could go to Florida a lot cheaper than that."

Like other winners, Skiffington had answered an advertisement in a magazine for an evaluation of his poetry.

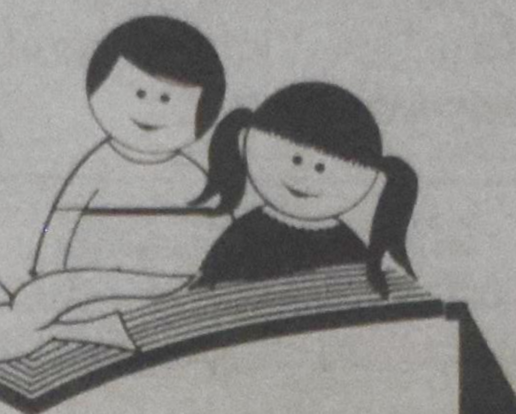
World of Poetry, which has been in business 10 years, sent him an application for a poetry contest. Contestants send $5 for each poem they enter.

Skiffington said he was told only "a handful win the merit award" he received.

Calandri said about 100 are awarded in each contest, which is run "five, six times or more" each year. Later, Skiffington received a letter congratulating him on his gold poet award.

Skiffington, who will lose a week's pay to attend, said he has "sunk thousands of dollars into this whole thing" — including more than $100 to buy books in which the company has promised to print one of his poems.

Coffee Break Story Hour



Coffee Break Activities

DATE		PLACE	COORDINATOR	PHONE	* EVENT
Aug.	28	Langley, B.C.—First CRC	Coby Hogendoorn	(604) 888-1314	BAS
Aug.	28	Bellevue, WA—Englewood Pres.	Julie Scherer	(206) 362-2289	BAS
Aug.	28	Bellevue, WA—Englewood Pres.	Julie Scherer	(206) 362-2289	+ SH p.m.
Aug.	29	Nashua, NH—Trinity Baptist	Judy Peterson	(603) 465-2513	BAS
Sept.	6	Abbotsford, B.C.—Trinity CRC	Judy Steenbergen	(604) 852-2434	RALLY
Sept.	7	Abbotsford, B.C.—First CRC	Helene VanderVeen	(604) 854-1928	SH p.m.
Sept.	7	Alameda, CA—CRC	Marie Van Antwerpen	(707) 258-1337	RALLY
Sept.	7	Marysville, WA—Tulalip Inn	Beth Barnhart	(206) 734-9544	RALLY
Sept.	7	Waupun, WI—Bethel CRC	Lorrine Kemink	(414) 324-5175	RALLY
Sept.	8	Beaverton, OR—Oak Hills CRC	Lori Leep	(503) 645-3153	RALLY
Sept.	8	Bloomington, MN	Louanne Schonewill	(612) 884-5648	SH p.m.
Sept.	8	Laguna Hills, CA—Lake Hills Comm.	Judy Marvel	(714) 837-7729	RALLY
Sept.	8	Wheaton, IL—CRC	Dorothy Hoekenga	(312) 668-3781	BAS
Sept.	8–9	Pittsfield, MA	Diane Averill	(914) 297-5882	RETREAT
Sept.	9	Bloomington, MN	Louanne Schonewill	(612) 884-5648	BAS
Sept.	11	Wheaton, IL—CRC	Dorothy Hoekenga	(312) 668-3781	SH p.m.
Sept.	12	Victoria, B.C.—First CRC	Florina Neutel	(604) 727-2459	SH p.m.
Sept.	13	Victoria, B.C.—First CRC	Florina Neutel	(604) 727-2459	BAS
Sept.	13	Walnut Creek, CA—CRC	Janny Ligtenberg	(707) 745-2421	SH a.m.
Sept.	13	Munster, IN—Trinity Ref.	Mary Climer	(312) 895-1405	RALLY⊛
Sept.	15	Burbank, IL—Immanuel CRC	Maggie Bienias	(312) 422-5085	WTC
Sept.	15	Grand Rapids, MI—Walker CRC	Esther Howerzyl	(616) 784-1191	BAS
Sept.	16	Grand Rapids, MI—Mayfair CRC	Ruth Witte	(616) 459-5572	BAS
Sept.	16	Riverside, CA—CRC	Grace Sylvester	(714) 780-1466	BAS
Sept.	18	Zillah, WA—CRC	Twyla Haringa	(509) 837-5613	SH p.m.
Sept.	19	Zillah, WA—CRC	Twyla Haringa	(509) 837-5613	BAS
Sept.	19	Byron Center, MI—Heritage CRC	Candace Peterson	(616) 878-9717	SH a.m.
Sept.	20	Medicine Hat, AB—CRC	Diane Sparks	(403) 334-4044	BAS
Sept.	20	Medicine Hat, AB—CRC	Diane Sparks	(403) 334-4044	SH p.m.
Sept.	21	Visalia, CA—CRC	Vera Grimmius	(209) 732-9524	# SH p.m.
Sept.	21	Grand Rapids, MI—Wyoming Park CRC	Esther Balkema	(616) 532-6453	SH p.m.
Sept.	22	Akron, OH—CRC	Ria Waters	(216) 867-3944	SH p.m.
Sept.	22	Hanford, CA—CRC	Caroline Burrus	(209) 582-4984	WTC
Sept.	22	Nobleford, B.C.—CRC	Christine Vd.Berg	(403) 824-3520	BAS
Sept.	23	Palo Alto, CA—CRC	Susan Ellis	(415) 855-9116	BAS
Sept.	23	Lethbridge, AB—Maranatha CRC	Betty Greidanus	(403) 320-9816	WTC
Sept.	23	Hanford, CA—CRC	Caroline Burrus	(209) 582-4984	BAS
Sept.	23	Akron, OH—CRC	Ria Waters	(216) 867-3944	WTC
Sept.	23	Ancaster, ON—Redeemer College	Olga Anjema	(519) 786-5557	RALLY
Sept.	27	Trenton, ON—CRC	Jean Touw	(613) 394-3063	BAS
Sept.	28	Holland, MI—Graafschaap CRC	Jane Arnoldink	(616) 335-9823	BAS
Sept.	30	Phoenix, AZ—	Paula Wigboldy	(602) 493-8371	RALLY
Oct.	6	Escalon, CA—CRC	Sandy Van Vliet	(209) 838-3064	WTC
Oct.	6	Chino, CA—Calvary CRC	Gwenny Slegers	(714) 947-5654	⋆ SH a.m.
Oct.	7	FallBrook, CA—FallBrook Pres.	Judy Sisel	(619) 728-5160	BAS
Oct.	12	Neerlandia, AB—CRC	Sya Strydhorst	(403) 674-4269	BAS
Oct.	12	Neerlandia, AB—CRC	Sya Strydhorst	(403) 674-4269	SH p.m.
Oct.	13	Neerlandia, AB—CRC	Sya Strydhorst	(403) 674-4269	WTC
Oct.	13	Kalamazoo, MI—Third CRC	Debbie Bos	(616) 343-4100	RALLY⊛
Oct.	13	Guelph, ON—CRC	Joanne Rauwerda	(519) 836-8564	SH p.m.
Oct.	14	Guelph, ON—CRC	Joanne Rauwerda	(519) 836-8564	WTC
Oct.	14	Leduc, AB—CRC	Joanne Van Beek	(403) 986-1368	RALLY
Oct.	21	Chino, CA—First CRC	Rose Vander Schaaf	(714) 947-2216	WTC
Nov.	10	Grandville, MI—Crossroads Rest.	Marideen Holtrop	(616) 246-0762	DIR. DAY

*BAS (Basic) and WTC (Winning-to-Christ) workshops are held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. SH (Story Hour) a.m. workshops are from 9:00 a.m. to noon; p.m. workshops are from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. DIR. DAY = Directors Day. Rally times will vary by region. Contact the coordinator for details.

⊛ There is no need to register for these rallies.
\+ This SH workshop is from 4:30–8:00 p.m.
⋆ This SH workshop is from 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
This SH workshop is from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Please register for workshops *two weeks* in advance to allow time for preparation materials to be sent.

American Poetry Association opens contest, welcomes Canadians

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (APA) — Canadian poets may enter the American Poetry Association's current contest in which over $11,000 in prizes will be awarded to 152 winners, the association wants Canadians to know. Entry is free and everyone is welcome to enter.

The grand prize is $1,000 and the first prize $500. Other prizes include cash awards and publication.

"A special opportunity for undiscovered poets only comes along once in a while. That's exactly what this contest is. It can help you get published and gain greater public recognition," said Robert Nelson, publisher for the association. "Many Canadians win prizes from us, so I urge every Canadian who writes poetry to enter this contest."

Poets may enter the contest by sending up to six poems, each no more than 20 lines, name and address on each page, to American Poetry Association, Dept. CT-58, 250-A Potrero St., P.O. Box 1803, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Entries should be mailed by December 31, 1989.

Every entrant receives a free copy of "The Poet's Guide to Getting Published," a four-page booklet full of useful information.

Each poem is also considered for publication in the *American Poetry Anthology*, a leading collection of contemporary verse.

During seven years of sponsorship the American Poetry Association has run 32 contests and awarded $145,000 in prizes to 3,040 poets.

SEEK WISDOM AT ICS THIS FALL

Psychology 1340
The empowerment of self in community: Issues in psychotherapy
Our aim will be to create a forum in which we explore theories, share experiences and develop strategies to enhance our ability to engage in the ministry of encouragement and healing. Instructors: *Mary VanderVennen*, Professional Therapist, Christian Counselling Services; *Diane Marshall*, Professional Therapist, Institute of Family Living; and *James Olthuis*, Senior Member in Philosophical Theology. **Tuesdays, 7 to 10 p.m.**

Theology 1920
Spirituality and the renewal of the church
The relationship of charismatic renewal to church renewal, the relation of charismatic gifts to "professional" leadership in the church, the role of women and men in ordained ministry.
George Vandervelde, Senior Member in Systematic Theology. **Wednesdays, 7 to 10 p.m.**

ICS

See Church news on page 23

Classified

Classified rates

Births $25.00
Marriages & Engagements . $30.00
Anniversaries $35.00
2-column anniversaries $60.00
Obituaries $35.00
Notes of thanks $25.00
Birthdays $25.00
All other one-column classified advertisements: $10.00 per column inch. NOTE: Minimum fee is $15.00. Letter under file number, $25.00 extra. Photos: $15.00 additional charge. (Free when published with anniversary announcement celebrating 50 years or more.) **Calvinist Contact will not be responsible for any errors due to handwritten or phoned-in advertisements.**

OBITUARIES
Obituaries should be composed as they are to appear in *Calvinist Contact*. A sheet with information sent by funeral homes is not acceptable since it leads to errors and confusion.
The $35.00 rate for obituaries covers any length up to six column inches. Calvinist Contact reserves the right to charge for additional column inches at the rate of $10.00 per column inch.

NEWLYWEDS
Non-subscribing newlyweds whose wedding announcement with their future address appears in Calvinist Contact will receive a letter offering a first-year subscription for only $15.00! To facilitate matters, we encourage those who request and pay for the wedding announcement to enclose $15.00 and the couple's future address.

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***FAX:* (416) 682-8313**

Births

ALBLAS:
"Praise God from whom all blessings flow ..."
Ed and Annette thank the Lord for the safe arrival of their first child, a son

TIMOTHY EDWARD

born June 13, 1989, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. Proud grandparents for the first time are Mr. and Mrs. Ed VanderMolen of Virgil, Ont., and for the fourth time Mr. and Mrs. Tony Alblas of Nepean, Ont. Timothy is also the first great-grandchild for Oma Fokkens, the sixth great-grandchild for Opa and Oma Alblas, and the fourth great-grandchild for Opa and Oma Top.
Home address: 1245 Hwy #5, R.R.#1, Burlington, ON L7R 3X4.

DEVRIES:
John and Shirley DeVries would like to thank God for the blessed gift of their third child, a healthy baby girl

ROSALIE JOY

born July 19, 1989, weighing 8 lbs. 3½ oz. A sister for Lindsey Marie and Christine Shirley. Rosalie Joy is the third grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Edward DeVries of Smithville, Ont., and the 10th grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Adrian VanGeest of Grimsby, Ont. She is the 92nd great-grandchild for Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zantingh of Burlington, Ont.
Home address: R.R.#1, Townline Rd., Smithville, ON L0R 2A0.

For Crossword Puzzle see page 17

Births

GROENEWOLD:
"O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!" (Ps. 98:1a)
Albert and Margaret Groenewold (nee Wassink) praise and thank the Lord for the gift of another daughter

JANEEN APRIL

born June 13, 1989, weighing 9 lbs. 2 oz. A little sister for Jevon and Karena. Janeen is the 21st grandchild for Evert and Klaziena Wassink of Forest, Ont., and the eighth grandchild for Frank and Alice Groenewold of Escondido, Calif.
Home address: R.R.#4, Woodstock, ON N4S 7V8.

KIKKERT-VEENHOF:
"Oh Lord, You have been good ... You have been faithful to all generations!"
Henry and Heather give thanks to their covenant Lord for the gift of another healthy son

DANIEL WILLIAM

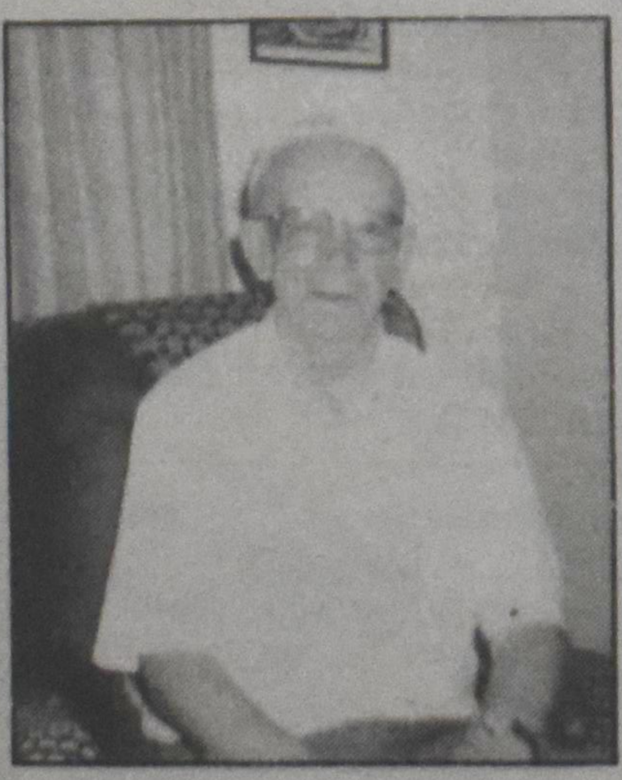
born June 24, 1989, weighing 8 lbs. 4 oz. Welcomed with much love by sisters and brother Julie, Timothy and Michelle. Rejoicing with them are grandparents Ralph and Lammie Kikkert of Grimsby (26th) and William and Dorothy Veenhof of St. Catharines (17th), and great-grandparents William and Adriana Veenhof of Grimsby, and Anne and Sjouke Spoelstra of the Netherlands.
Home address: R.R.#1, Grassie, ON L0R 1M0.

VAN MUYEN:
Andrew and Fimke thank the Lord our Maker for his precious baby girl entrusted to our care.

HANNAH JOY

arrived safely into the world July 15, 1989, weighing 10 lbs. 12 oz., at Hotel Dieu, Cornwall, Ont. Hannah Joy is a little sister for Melissa Grace and Joshua Andrew. She is another grandchild for Jack and Pat Vander Vaart of Ingersoll, Ont., and Maria and Nick Helder of Fort Langley, B.C. She is another great-grandchild for Gram and Gramps Eden of Ingersoll and Oma VandenBosch of Rijnsburg, the Netherlands.
Home address: 2266 Pitt St., Cornwall, ON K6K 1A3.

Birthday



Congratulations to John Tamming, Sr. on his 85th birthday.

TAMMING:
Our father, Mr. John Tamming, Sr., will celebrate his 85th birthday on Aug. 21, 1989, the Lord willing. His wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren give thanks and praise to our heavenly Father for Dad's many years of Christian example and service. To celebrate this happy occasion an open house will be held for Dad on Aug. 21, 1989, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Trillium Village, 400 Dominion St., Strathroy, Ont.
Home address: 400 Dominion St., Apt. 39, Strathroy, ON N7G 3G8.

Marriages

BERGHUIS-REINDERS:
With joy and thanksgiving to the Lord, Peter and Hilda Berghuis and Rick and Dina Reinders wish to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children

MARLENE
and
MAARTHEN

The ceremony will take place, D.V., at 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 26, 1989, in Ingersoll Chr. Ref. Church. Future address: 666 Spadina Ave., Apt. 2203, Toronto, ON M5S 2H8.

FLEDDERUS-VELTMAN:
John and Ria Fledderus are happy to announce the marriage of their only daughter

JANICE DARLENE
to
ALLEN LEWIS

son of Luke and Alberta Veltman. The wedding will take place, the Lord willing, on Friday, Aug. 25, 1989, at 6:30 p.m. in Ebenezer Chr. Ref. Church, Trenton, Ont. Rev. John Groen officiating. Future address: 29 Charlotte St., Apt. 11, Belleville, ON K8P 1E3.

KIERS-VANDERKOOIJ:
Thankful to the Lord who has brought them together, we, Rick and Irene Kiers of Woodstock, Ont., and Harry and Klaaske Vander Kooij of Holland Marsh, Ont., announce the forthcoming marriage of our children

SUSAN ELIZABETH
and
HARRY RAYMOND

This celebration will take place, the Lord willing, on Saturday, Aug. 19, 1989, at 11 a.m. in Maranatha Chr. Ref. Church, Woodstock, Ont. Rev. Dirk Miedema of Acton, Ont., officiating.
Future address: 23 Collier Cres., Hamilton, ON L9C 3S7.

LOENEN-TOLKAMP:
Nick and Jayne Loenen of Richmond, B.C., gratefully announce the marriage of their eldest daughter

MARIANNE YVONNE
to
CALVIN RICHARD

son of Chris and Diny Tolkamp of Langley, B.C. The wedding took place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5, 1989, in Richmond Chr. Ref. Church, Rev. Martin Contant officiated. One hundred family members and friends attended a garden reception under sunny skies at historic London Farm.
Temporary address: 5611 Jaskow Dr., Richmond, BC V7E 5W4.

PELSTER-DENING:
Thankful to the Lord, Ben and Margaret Pelster and John and Ruly Dening announce the marriage of their children

SYLVIA IRENE
and
EDWIN PETER

The marriage will take place, the Lord willing, Friday, Aug. 25, 1989, at 3:30 p.m. in Maranatha Chr. Ref. Church, Edmonton, Alta. Pastor Tom Oosterhuis officiating.
Future address: Apt. 305-11019-107 St., Edmonton, AB T5H 2Z6.

Real Estate

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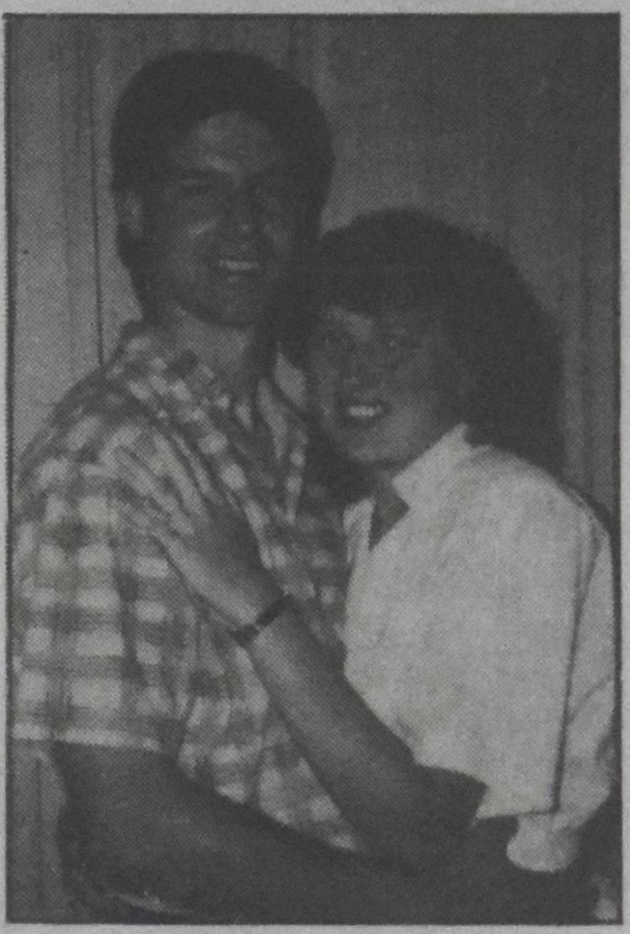
Marriages

STAMPER-LISE:
Mrs. Jane Lise, of Drayton, is pleased to announce the marriage of her youngest son

WAYNE JOHN LISE
to
JUNE ANN STAMPER

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Stamper of Bluevale. The marriage will take place, D.V., on Saturday, Aug. 19, 1989, at 3 p.m. in Palmerston Chr. Ref. Church. Rev. J. Vanderkooy of Listowel officiating.
Future address: 355 Clayton St. E., Listowel, ON N4W 2G4.



Congratulations to Debbie and Roger on this special occasion.

VANDERENDE-GROOTENBOER:
John and Edith Van der Ende and Ed and Willy Grootenboer are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children

DEBBIE
and
ROGER

This celebration of their Christian love will take place, D.V., Aug. 26, 1989, at 3 p.m. in Grace Chr. Ref. Church, Chatham, Ont., with Rev. J. Tuininga officiating.
Future address: Redeemer College, Ancaster, Ont.

VERVEDA-BOLINK:
Bill and Jane Verveda and Herman and Hilly Bolink are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children

WINNY
and
DAVE

The celebration of this Christian love will take place, D.V., in a ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 26, 1989, at 1:30 p.m. in Emmanuel Chr. Ref. Church in Calgary. Pastor Tony Schweitzer officiating.
Future address: 202-10634-113 St., Edmonton, AB T5H 3H6.

WARREN-HIEMSTRA:
With joy and thanksgiving to God, Allan and Akkie Adema and Wytze and Janny Hiemstra announce the forthcoming marriage of their children

PATTY
and
CHARLIE

The ceremony of love will take place, D.V., on Aug. 26, 1989, at 2:30 p.m. in Aylmer Chr. Ref. Church, Dr. H.J. Boekhoven officiating and Rev. N. Jones assisting.
Future address: 404 John St. South, Aylmer, ON N5H 2E4.

For Rent

One-bedroom mobile home in adult park, across the lake from Cypress Gardens in Winterhaven, Fla. Book now for reduced monthly rates before Christmas. Available from Sept. 25 till Dec. 22. $400 U.S. per month. Phone (705) 526-3395.

Marriages

TAMMING-VAN GEEST:
John and Hilda Tamming of Georgetown, Ont., and Art and Joyce Van Geest of Grimsby, Ont., are pleased to announce the marriage of their children

ANITA JOYCE
and
GORDON EDWARD

The marriage will take place, the Lord willing, on Saturday, Aug. 26, 1989, at 10:30 a.m. in Willowdale Chr. Ref. Church, Rev. Sid Couperus officiating.
Future address: 374 Lake St., Grimsby, ON L3M 1Z8.

Anniversaries

1964 September 5 1989
With praise and thanksgiving to God, we announce the 25th wedding anniversary of our parents

GEORGE and JEANETTE ANTONIDES
(nee Vanderlinde)

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct thy paths." (Prov. 3:6)
With love:
Kevin & Karen
Brad
Scott
Home address: R.R.#1, Putnam, ON N0L 2B0.

1964 Edmonton 1989
"Everyone then who hears these words of mind and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon a rock." (Matt. 7:24)
We hope to celebrate the event of Dad and Mom's 25th anniversary, D.V., Aug. 26, 1989.

EDDY and JOAN HAAGEN

Thanks be to God for his many blessings throughout the years, may the Lord be with them for many years to come.
Jack
Leonard
Patricia
Robert
Home address: 6212-137 Ave., Edmonton, AB T5A 1C9.

1934 August 23 1989
With joy and thankfulness to our heavenly Father we announce the 55th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents

LEONARD and NELLY HORDYK
(nee VanVliet)

John & Tina Hordyk — Port Burwell
Jenny & Sid Kaastra — Clinton
Paul & Sylvia Hordyk — Millbrook
Len & Ena Hordyk — Burlington
Bill & Betty Hordyk — Petrolia
Audrey & Bill Teeuwsen — St. Catharines
Nick & Corry Hordyk — Clarksburg
33 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.
Home address: 18 Walker Ave., St. Catharines, ON L2N 3L6.

1964 August 21 1989
May God be gracious to us and bless us ... May the peoples praise you, O God." (Ps. 67)
With joy and thanksgiving, we would like to announce the 25th anniversary of our parents and grandparents

JERRY and NETTIE KIERS
(nee VanderBorgh)

May God continue to bless you throughout your lives.
With love:
Doug & Marg Reurink — Picture Butte, Alta.
Nicole
Karen — Dunnville, Ont
Rick — at home
Sandy — at home
Mailing address: Box 177, Iron Springs, AB T0K 1G0.

Classified

Anniversaries

Berg Joosse
August 26
With praise and thanksgiving to Yahweh we wish to announce the 40th wedding anniversary of our parents

HERMAN and NELLIE JOOSSE-BERG

"O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noice to the rock of our salvation." (Ps. 95:1)
With love from your children and grandchildren:
Ray & Rita DeJong-Berg — Gorrie, Ont.
Brandon, Aaron, Jan Houston
Brad & Fran Berg-Robinson — Chatham, Ont.
Cara, Ryan
Arnold & Margaret Berg-Eigeman — Heerde, the Neth.
Michael, Natascha, Natalie
Pete & Joyce Berg-Douwes — Kitchener, Ont.
David, Samara, Justine
John Berg — Sarnia, Ont.
Sharon Berg — Wyoming, Ont.
Home address: General Delivery, Gowanstown, Ont. (near Listowel, Ont.)

Norg Wellandport
the Neth. Ont.
1949 September 1 1989
"The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand." (Ps. 121:5)
With joy and thanksgiving to God, we celebrate the 40th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

JAN and GERREDIENA KIERS
(nee Elmers)

With congratulations and love:
Nick & Marlene Kiers — Grimsby, Ont.
Michael, Sandra, David, Sharon
John & Doreen Kiers — Caistor Centre, Ont.
Bertha (deceased)
Wilfred & Connie Kiers — Wellandport, Ont.
Jeremy, Bryan, Scott, Jacqueline
Andrew & Geri Kiers — Beamsville, Ont.
Grace Kiers — Hamilton, Ont.
We invite family and friends to celebrate this joyous occasion with us at an open house held in their honour on Friday, Sept. 1, 1989, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Wellandport Christian School.
Best wishes only please!
Home address: R.R.#3, Elcho Rd., Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0.

1954 August 18 1989
"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:15)
With joy and thankfulness to God, we are happy to announce the 35th wedding anniversary of our parents

JOHN WALLACE and BERDINA POSTMAN
(Nee Van Dyke)

May God grant you many more years together in service to him.
With love:
Noreen & Luke Vos — Guelph, Ont.
Amanda, Robert, Thomas, Edward
Doug & Len Postman — Dale City, Va.
Tim, Trisha
Denise & Brian Prinsen — St. Catharines, Ont.
Mark & Judi Postman — Fenwick, Ont.

Anniversaries

Congratulations to Herman and Jennigje Prenger (nee Finke) on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Gramsbergen Thunder Bay
the Neth. Ont.
1929 August 29 1989
The Lord willing, we hope to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents

HERMAN and JENNIGJE PRENGER
(nee Finke)

"The Lord will keep you from all harm — He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." (Ps. 121)
We are thankful to our heavenly Father for the many years they shared together and with us, and pray that He will continue to keep them in his hand.
Their grateful children:
Henry & Tine Prenger — Thunder Bay
Herman & Alice Prenger — Thunder Bay
Rika & Ron Perrier — Thunder Bay
Martin & Madeline Prenger — Blackpool, Eng.
Marge & Jim Hurdon — Thunder Bay
Jenny & Carl Taylor — Thunder Bay
30 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.
Open house will be held at the Thunder Bay Christian School auditorium, Arthur St., Thunder Bay, on Aug. 29, 1989, at 8 p.m.
Home address: 78 Walkover St., Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1L2. Phone (807) 767-2239.

Spijkenisse Guelph
1964 August 7 1989
With joy and thanksgiving to the Lord, we are happy to announce the 25th wedding anniversary of our parents

JOHN and MARGUERITE RIDDER
(nee Poppen)

May the Lord continue to bless you and give you many more years of service for his glory.
With love from your children:
John & Charlene — Burlington
Annette — home
Frank — home
We hope to celebrate this special occasion on Aug. 4, 1989, in Guelph.
Home address: 320 Westacres Dr., Guelph, ON N1H 2A5.

Strathroy
1959 August 21 1989
"The Lord is my light and my Salvation." (Ps. 27:1)
With thankfulness to God we are happy to celebrate the 30th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

ALLEN and WILLY SPEERSTRA

Happy anniversary with love from your children and grandchildren:
Margherita & Gary Ross — Strathroy
Carly
Stan & Marg Speerstra — London
Carolyn Speerstra & Tom Deehan (fiance) — Windsor
Corinne & Brian Linker — Strathroy
Melanie, Julie

Anniversaries

Dunnville Smithville
1964 August 8 1989
"For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide, even to the end." (Ps. 48:14)
With thankfulness to God, we, the children of

MARC and DOROTHY STROOBOSSCHER

wish to announce the joyous occasion of their 25th anniversary.
Congratulations, Mom and Dad, and may God bless you in the years ahead.
Love from:
Rick & Della
Thalia
Chris & Brenda
Duane & Tracey
Marcella
Peter
Home address: 13 Brooks Circle, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0.

Hengelo Williamstown
1944 1989
With thankfulness to the Lord, on Sept. 1, 1989, we hope to celebrate with our parents and grandparents their 45th wedding anniversary

JAN and GERTRUIDA TEN BRINKE
(nee Weijsink)

We pray that the Lord will continue to keep them in his care.
Mike & Lydie Van Dyke — Maitland, Ont.
Trudy, Michael, John
Gerry & Margaret Ten Brinke — Cornwall, Ont.
Reuben, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Johnathan
An open house will be held on Sept. 2, 1989, from 2-4 p.m. at their home.
Home address: R.R.#1, Williamstown, Ont.

1964 August 21 1989
"... for no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 3:11)

JIM and CHRISTINE VREUGDENHIL

Congratulations, Mom and Dad! We thank God for giving you 25 years together, and pray that He will give you many more years of joy. We thank you for building this family on the only true foundation, Jesus Christ.
With love:
Paul & Beth — Trenton
Gord & Janet — Waterloo
Karen — home
Janet — home
Home address: 2 Silverdale Dr., St. Catharines, ON L2M 3N1.

Duncan, B.C. Brampton, Ont.
1964 September 4 1989
With praise and thanksgiving to God, we celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of our parents

IKE and JENNIE WITTEVEEN

Congratulations, Mom and Dad, on this special occasion!
With love:
Melissa
Stephen
Stacey
Home address: 58 Curtis Dr., Brampton, ON L6Y 2J5.

Anniversaries

1934 August 14 1989
Thanks be to God who has blessed our dear parents

CLARENCE and JOYCE TIGCHELAAR

with 55 years of marriage.
Your children and grandchildren praise God for you. Your loving care and gracious example has enriched and blessed us all.
With love:
Dorothy & Rick Forrester — Cornwall, Ont.
Shirley & John Bakker — South Africa
Ed & Jan — Lafayette, Indiana
Rick & Ann — Hannon, Ont.
Clare & Carolyne — Richmond Hill, Ont.
Dan & Ida — St. Catharines, Ont.
Dave & Joan — Drayton, Ont.
25 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.
Home address: Golfclub Rd., R.R.#1, Hannon, ON L0R 1P0.

Anniversaries

1964 August 15 1989
"May your unfailing love rest upon us, Oh Lord, even as we put our hope in you." (Ps. 33)
With praise and thanksgiving to God, we are happy to announce the 25th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

JOHN and HENNY TJOELKER
(nee Veltman)

May God continue to bless you richly in your life together.
With love:
Hettie & Theo Dekkema
Ryan, Shannon
Harry Tjoelker
Open house reception to be held on Aug. 19, 1989, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. at Rehoboth Fellowship Chr. Ref. Church, 800 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Etobicoke. We invite all relatives and friends to come and share our joy! Best wishes only.
Home address: 1198 Kingsholm Dr., Mississauga, ON L4Y 2H2. Phone (416) 277-0576.

Congratulations to Siebe and Alice Siebenga (nee Bajema) on their 50th wedding anniversary.

1939 August 13 1989
"Shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee." (Ruth 3:1)
With thankfulness to God we celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

SIEBE and ALICE SIEBENGA
(nee Bajema)

Wieger & Anne Siebenga — Nobleford, Alta.
Geraldine, Alisa, Steven, Sheila
Rinda & Ralph Marnow — Calgary, Alta.
Pamela, Carol, Michelle
Jack & Linda Siebenga — Blackfalds, Alta.
Shana, Jason
Harry Siebenga — Edmonton, Alta.
Agnes Struik — Toronto, Ont.
Tena Siebenga — Edmonton, Alta.
Marg & Jake Hoogland — Blackfalds, Alta.
Kurtis, Tim
Home address: R.R.#1, Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0.

Holland Marsh Smithers
1964 August 25 1989
We want to praise the Lord for all of the 25 years he has given to our parents

JOHN and SARA VEENSTRA
(nee Vander Kooij)

and for the love He continues to show our family. We also want to thank our parents for the love they have shown to us, and for the patience they have had and continue to have for us. May God bless your marriage for many more years, and may you continue to be a blessing to all of us.
With lots of love from the 'kids':
Jeannette
Peter
Marguerite
Henrietta
Valerie Joy
Esther
Mailing address: Site 25, Comp. 22, R.R.#1, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0.

1949 August 18 1989
With praise and thanksgiving to God, we are pleased to announce the 40th wedding anniversary of our parents

CLARENCE and WILHELMINA VANDERHOUT
(nee VanGeest)

We pray that the Lord, who has so faithfully watched over you in the past, will continue to guide and bless you in the future.
With love and best wishes from your children and grandchildren:
Nellie & Hank Vyn — Ancaster, Ont.
Brian, Stan, Allan, Sonia
Marlene & Nick Kiers — Grimsby, Ont.
Michael, Sandra, David, Sharon
Wilma & John Lindeboom — Dunnville, Ont.
Scott, Daniel, Monique, Benjamin
Clarinda & John Vandendool — Woodstock, Ont.
Johnny, Jessica
Clarence & Cheryl Vanderhout — Grimsby, Ont.
Relatives and friends are cordially invited to celebrate this joyous occasion with them at an open house on Saturday, Aug. 19, 1989, D.V., from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. in the Grimsby Community Center, 162 Livingston Ave. Best wishes only please.
Home address: 215 Kelson Ave., R.R.#2, Grimsby, ON L3M 4E8.

Personal

Single Men and Women
If you are over 21 years of age and would like to find a partner in Christian marriage, write to: Christian Marriage Contact Service, P.O. Box 1127, Station B, Burlington, ON L7P 3S9. Please enclose $3.00 for a complete information package explaining our services.
Established in 1967.

For Sale

The Bible and Islam
by Rev. Bassam Madany
$4.95 Canada / $3.95 U.S.
How to relate the gospel relevantly to the Muslim heart and mind.
Write: The Back to God Hour
P.O. Box 5070
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

Classified

Anniversaries

1944 August 23 1989
With joy and thanksgiving to our Lord, we are happy to announce the 45th wedding anniversary of our parents and grandparents

HENDRIK and PIETERTJE VANDERMEULEN

May the Lord continue to bless them and keep them in his care.
With love and congratulations from their children and grandchildren:
Richard & Yettie Zandbergen
Nelson, Scott, Suzanne, Rebecca
Frank & Ypie Buwalda
Courtney, Jeremy, Nick, Frankie
John & Hilda DeJong
Levi, Ben
Bill & Tina DeJong
Jodi, Billy
Andy & Patsy VanderMeulen
Andrew, Jeff, Duane, Jacquie
Sid & Norma VanderMeulen
Open house will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 1989, at 8 p.m. in St. Richard's Church, Nepean, Ont.
Home address: 220 Viewmount Dr., Apt. 312, Nepean, ON K2E 7M5.

Obituaries

"Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever." (Ps. 23:6)
On July 19, 1989, the Lord took unto himself our dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather

MENNO ADMIRAAL

at the age of 81 years.
Ali Bosma-Admiraal & Bob Bosma — Edmonton, Alta.
Jenny Pietersma-Admiraal & Dick Pietersma — Edmonton, Alta.
Willemien Dehoog — Edmonton, Alta.
Jack Admiraal & Nel Admiraal-Schouten — Edmonton, Alta.
Tini Devries-Admiraal & Jesse Devries — Edmonton, Alta.
Ann Boonstra-Admiraal & Jerry Boonstra — Edmonton, Alta.
Hendrik Admiraal & Brenda Admiraal-Wood — Debert, N.S.
Grace Thompson-Admiraal & Claude Thompson — Sparwood, B.C.
Menno Admiraal Jr. & Elizabeth Admiraal-Pelton — Edmonton, Alta.
32 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.
The memorial service was held on Saturday, July 22, 1989, at 10 a.m. in Maranatha Chr. Ref. Church, after which burial took place at Westlawn Memorial Gardens, Edmonton.
Correspondence address: 12121-41 St., Edmonton, AB T5W 2M5.

The Lord called home to himself our beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather

KLAAS DOEKES

in his 78th year.
Lord's Day 1.
Beloved husband of Anna Doekes
Children:
Louis & Gerrie Doekes — Orangeville, Ont.
Thea Ondersma — Shelburne, Ont.
William & Marilyn Doekes — Grand Valley, Ont.
Nelly & Albert Van Sydenborgh — Orangeville, Ont.
Charles Doekes — Guelph, Ont.
Willemien & John Kottelenberg — Grand Valley, Ont.
Mary Doekes — Edmonton, Alta.
Mells & Wilma Brouwer — Grand Valley, Ont.
Ena & John Wright — Shelburne, Ont.
Gerald & Denise Doekes — Norval, Ont.
31 grandchildren and one great-grandson, four sisters and three brothers in the Netherlands.
July 5, 1989.
Correspondence address: R.R.#2, Orangeville, ON L9W 2Y9.

Obituaries

The Lord took unto himself, on July 11, 1989, our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

ELIZABETH BUMA
(nee Attema)

in her 91st year.
Predeceased by her husband Symen Buma in 1976 and her daughter Gertrude Zekveld in 1988.
Lovingly remembered by:
Hetty & Jake Kapteyn — Whitby, Ont.
Shirley & Jim Reyenga — Bewdley, Ont.
Rose & Walter Piersma — Bowmanville, Ont.
Peter & Judy Buma — Bowmanville, Ont.
Bill & Toni Buma — Bowmanville, Ont.
Gilbert Zekveld — Janetville, Ont.
Trix & Richard Bouwma — Jarvis, Ont.
Tina & Peter Feddema — Beamsville, Ont.
Evelyn & John Thies — Burlington, Ont.
Dear beppe of 46 grandchildren and 79 great-grandchildren.
"Niets kan ons scheiden van de liefde van Christus" (Rom. 8:39)
Funeral service was conducted by Rev. John Zantingh on July 14 at Maranatha Chr. Ref. Church, Bowmanville, Ont.
Correspondence address: Walter Piersma, 15 Burk Court, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3V8.

After a long illness the Lord called home my beloved husband and the children's dear father and grandfather

JOHANNES DE JONG

at the age of 64 on July 25, 1989.
His strength was in the Lord, who sustained him through the very difficult years. Sadly missed by his wife, Gertie de Jong.
Harry & Martha de Jong — Newcastle, Ont.
Richard & Margriet de Jong — Oshawa, Ont.
James & Corrie de Jong — Orono, Ont.
Joanne & Randy Duguay — Belleville, Ont.
and 11 grandchildren.
Predeceased by his first wife Jane de Jong.
Correspondence address: Gertie de Jong, 21 Gardiner Cres., Cobourg, ON K9A 1W7.

On July 7, 1989, after a lengthy illness, the Lord took unto himself

STEWARD DE ROOS

in his 57th year.
Beloved husband of Catherine de Jong of Athens.
Dear father of:
Yvonne & Peter Mulder — Athens
Gordon & Patricia De Roos — Addison
Dear grandfather of:
Steven & Kimberly Mulder
Joanne & Stewart De Roos
Loving son of Mrs. Tom Poelman (Greta) of Athens.
Dear son-in-law of Gerrit & Eike de Jong of North Augusta
Dear brother of:
Gertie & Albert Bouwers — Metcalfe
Jackie & Nick Verburg — Athens
Shirley & Hans Bouwers — Woodstock
Dear brother-in-law of:
Peter & Corrie de Jong — North Augusta
Frank & Dorothy de Jong — Addison
Barry & Cathy de Jong — North Augusta
Predeceased by brother John and father Gerben De Roos.
Funeral service was held on July 10, 1989, in Athens Chr. Ref. Church. Rev. Gerrit Bieze officiating.
Psalm 27:13 and 14.

Obituaries

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is my portion forever." (Ps. 73:26)
The Lord called to glory our father, grandfather and great-grandfather

JAN KRANENBORG

on Tuesday, July 4, 1989, at the age of 81.
The Lord also called to glory our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

ZWAANTJE KRANENBORG
(nee De Leeuw)

on Monday, Aug. 7, 1989, at the age of 80.
They were dear parents to us all and will always be lovingly remembered by their family:
Joanne & Henk Opden Dries — Rocky Mountain House, Alta.
Henny & Tony Middag — Lacombe, Alta.
John & Shan Kranenborg — Vernon, B.C.
Henry & Rika Kranenborg — Red Deer, Alta.
Karl & Brenda Kranenborg — Penhold, Alta.
22 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.
Funeral services were held in the First Chr. Ref. Church, Red Deer, Alta., on July 7, 1989, and Aug. 11, 1989, respectively with Rev. William VanderBeek officiating.
Correspondence address: H. Kranenborg, 27 Manning St., Red Deer, AB T4R 1N5.

After a heroic struggle with arthritis for 30 years, the Lord took into his eternal glory our dearly beloved wife and caring loving mother

CATRINA WILHELMINA (Willy) MELLEGERS

on the 26th of July in her 63rd year.
Overwhelmed and comforted by the many tokens of friendship and love are her husband and daughters:
Peter D. Mellegers — Courtland, Ont.
Pauline Mellegers — Nelson, B.C.
Nancy & Sandy Stewart — London, Ont.
The funeral service took place on July 31, 1989, in Tillsonburg, Ont.
Her courage and disposition will remain imbedded firmly in our memory.
"The Lord is my light and my salvation, I will fear no one."
Correspondence address: Box 281, Courtland, ON N0J 1E0.

Early Sunday morning, July 2, 1989, the Lord took to her eternal home, our dear mother and oma

ADRIANA MARIA PEGELS
(nee den Otter)

at the age of 83.
Our father Bertus Pegels predeceased her in December 1981.
We, her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, will miss her.
Leo Pegels
Carl & Pat Pegels
Janice and Jim Jewell, Kevin Pegels
Andy & Jenny Pegels
Bert Pegels, Diane and Ted Postma (Michael, Cindy, Mark), Ron Pegels and Rhonda Pittman
Audrey Hiemstra-Pegels
Rob and Janet Hiemstra, Dan Hiemstra and Wendy Weeber, Laurie Hiemstra, Sue Hiemstra
The funeral took place Wednesday, July 5, 1989, Rev. S. Wolfert and Rev. P. Van Egmond officiated.

"Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' " (John 11:25)
Correspondence address: A.M. Hiemstra, 19 Hayward Cres., Agincourt, ON M1S 2T7.

Obituaries

Jacob W. Ronda of Chilliwack, B.C., was called home to glory July 1, 1989, at the age of 69. He was born June 14, 1920 in Zuidlaren, the Netherlands.

JACOB W. RONDA

Jacob, a former teacher, lived in the Chilliwack district for the past 25 years and was an active member, organist and elder of the First Chr. Ref. Church of Chilliwack.
Jacob enjoyed music, painting, gardening and reading.
The funeral service was held at First Chr. Ref. Church of Chilliwack on Thursday, July 6, 1989, Rev. Arie Leegwater officiating.
Jacob is lovingly remembered by his wife Anna and their children:
Peter & Jane Ronda — Chilliwack, B.C.
Henry & Kathy Ronda — Taber, Alta.
Tina & Marty Notenbomer — Nobleford, Alta.
Connie & Gary Pauwels — Agassiz, B.C.
and 13 grandchildren.
"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

"The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps. 27:1)
On Thursday, July 13, 1989,

DIRK ROZENDAL

was taken to be with his Lord forever at the age of 61.
Lovingly remembered by his wife, Maria Rozendal-Schouten, and children:
Linda & Jake Thalen — Chilliwack, B.C.
Richard & Marg Rozendal — Listowel, Ont.
Roy & Jane Rozendal — Listowel, Ont.
Frank & Wanda Rozendal — Listowel, Ont.
Irene Rozendal & Martin Geerlinks (friend) — Listowel, Ont.
He will be dearly missed by 16 grandchildren.
The funeral service was held on Monday, July 17, 1989, Rev. Joel VanderKooi officiating. Interment in Fairview Cemetery, Listowel.
Home address: R.R.#4, Listowel, ON N4W 3G9.

The Council of Drayton Chr. Ref. Church express their sympathy to deacon Albert Scholten with the passing away of his father

JACOB SCHOLTEN

at Holland Christian Homes;
and also to elder Andy Knetsch with the passing away of his father

HANK KNETSCH

at Bowmanville;
May the Lord sustain and comfort them and their families with his promises.

Op woensdag, 5 juli 1989, heeft de Here tot zich genomen onze medebewoner

EGBERT SNIPPE

op de leeftijd van 70 jaar.
Onze bede is, dat God zijn vrouw en familie mag sterken met de blijde wetenschap, dat hij nu juicht voor Gods troon. De bewoners van South Chatham Village, 40 Elm St., Chatham, Ont.

Suddenly and very unexpected the Lord took to himself our member

JAN VAN DER BOON

Psalm 103:15, 16.
We pray that The Lord will comfort Mrs. van der Boon, children and grandchildren and sustain all of them with his grace.
Orillia, Ont. July 10, 1989.
Club "Youth of Yesterday."

Obituaries

What is my only comfort in life and death? That I with body and soul, both in life and death am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.
Lord's Day 1.
On July 14, 1989, the Lord called home, after a four-month illness from a stroke, his child

JACOB SCHOLTEN

He was 81 years old.
Beloved husband of Karen Scholten (nee Gort) for 55 years.
Beloved father of:
John & Tiny Scholten — Clifford, Ont.
Herb & Shirley Scholten — Moorefield, Ont.
Hennie & Richard Van Dyke — Georgetown, Ont.
Ralph & Pat Scholten — Bradford, Ont.
Be & Joyce Scholten — Orangeville, Ont.
Richard & Dagmar Scholten — Bondhead, Ont.
Jack & Theresa Scholten — Moorefield, Ont.
Mary & Ralph Mulder — Welland, Ont.
Murray & Hennie Scholten — Palmerston, Ont.
Albert & Shirley Scholten — Drayton, Ont.
Dearly loved by 36 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.
Predeceased by one great-grandson Jeff.
The funeral took place at Second Chr. Ref. Church of Brampton, Ont., Heritage Hall, July 17, 1989, with Pastor John Van Dyke officiating.
Correspondence address: 7900 McLaughlin Rd. S., Apt. 616, Brampton, ON L6V 3N2.

Through a tragic accident while vacationing in the Netherlands, the Lord called home

SJENKUS AMELIUS VANSOELEN

on June 29, 1989, at the age of 79.
Beloved husband of Elsie VanSoelen (nee Meyer). Loving father of:
Gys & Jane
Audrey & Aldon VanderHeide
Sam & Jennie
Seeko & June
Frederika & Sid Riemer
Sjenk
John & Margaret
Bill & Nancy
Dear brother of Klaas VanSoelen and Clara De Schiffart.
Brother-in-law of Frank Maan.
Loving grandfather of 31 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.
Predeceased by his grandsons Kevin, Richard Ormel and three sisters and one brother.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee. (Ps. 84:11, 12)
Correspondence address: Mrs. Elsie VanSoelen, 1415 Upper Wellington St., Apt. 121, Hamilton, ON L9A 5E8.

As a result of an accident on Thursday, June 29, 1989, we lost our dear friend

SJENK VAN SOELEN

at the age of 79.
Our comfort is the knowledge that he is now with his Shepherd in whom he trusted.
Grê Bergman
Hendrika Bezuyen
Ann Colyn
Margaret Jonker
Wilma Kraay
Pete & Toos Manni
Pete & Tonny Strayer
Henk & Adrie Vegter
St. Catharines, Ont., July 1989

Classified

Obituaries

"Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God." (Ps. 43:5b)
Our great Shepherd has called one of his own to be with him forever

TONI JANSEN VAN DOORN

Our sister-in-law and aunt went to be with him on June 28, 1989.
Steve, we commit you, Marian and Henry, Margriet, Lisabeth and Al, Anneke and Michael, Joan, Cornelius and your grandchildren, to our Shepherd's care, and trust He will comfort, strengthen and lead you.
John & Gertie Jansen van Doorn — Hamilton, Ont.
Hermien & Jan De Gruyter — Calgary, Alta.
Cor & Jessie Jansen van Doorn — Fordwich, Ont.
Ted Eisses — Winnipeg, Man. and families.

The Lord has called home for the eternal celebration of his love and faithfulness our loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

AALTJE VAN HOFFEN
(nee Van Gelder)

on July 1, 1989, at the age of 80 years.
Predeceased by her husband Dirk in June, 1983.
Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by her children:
Ann & Gert Donkersgoed — Drayton, Ont.
John & Irene Van Hoffen — Grimsby, Ont.
Jean & Herman Vreeman — Brandon, Man.
Ben & Frederica Van Hoffen — Grimsby, Ont.
Helen & Oenze Plantinga — Brandon, Man.
Richard & Sharon Van Hoffen — London, Ont.
Mary & Ben Vanderveen — Sarnia, Ont.
Jim & Martha Van Hoffen — Stoney Creek, Ont.
31 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, one sister in Sarnia and three brothers and two sisters in the Netherlands.
"He will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying nor pain .... 'See, I am making all things new.'" (Rev. 21:4-5)

Psalm 103
On Friday, July 28, 1989, while resting at home, the Lord called our father to enter the joy of his presence.

DIRK ZWART

1908 Oosternijkerk, Friesland
1989 Belleville, Ontario
Loving husband of Patricia Zwart (nee Talstra) for 56 years.
His witness for Christ was a testimony to us and his desire was that all should praise the Lord. His comfort was Psalm 45:1,2,7.
His presence will be missed by his children:
Andrew & Vicki Zwart — Grandville, Mich.
Loraine & Walter Vos — Kingston, Ont.
Marry & Francis De Vries — Welland, Ont.
Shirley & David Witt — Grenville, Mich.
Dorthy & Bill Bruins — Campbellford, Ont.
Abel & Caroline Zwart — Oshawa, Ont.
Thomas Zwart — Welland, Ont.
Gerald & Grace Zwart — Carrying Place, Ont.
Thelma & Ray Bouma — Belleville, Ont.
Trudi & Jake Berga — Cobourg, Ont.
34 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Rev. J. Visser conducted the funeral service on July 31, 1989.

Obituaries

"When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny." (Ps. 73:16, 17)
In his infinite wisdom and mercy, the Lord called to glory my dearly beloved husband

JOHN VAN HOUTEN

on Tuesday, July 25, 1989, at the age of 83, to live with him forever.
I am reassured by the life eternal which he now has.
The funeral service was held on July 28, 1989, followed by a memorial service in the Heritage Hall of Holland Christian Homes in Brampton, Rev. Peter Nicolai of Second Chr. Ref. Church officiated.
Correspondence address: Tine Van Houten, Hope Tower, Apt. 2-405, 7900 McLaughlin Rd. S., Brampton, ON L6V 3N2.

Personal

Dutch-Canadian lady, 58 years, C.R.C. London, Ont. area, likes to meet a Christian Dutchman, non-smoker, who is also looking for friendship, companionship and maybe marriage. Write to File #2525, c/o Calvinist Contact, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1.

For rent

Farmhouse for rent between Caledonia and Hagersville, Ont., $525 per month plus utilities. Available Sept. 1, 1989. Please call (416) 772-3272.

Goedkoop auto huren tijdens uw vakantie in Holland, v.a. Fl. 148,00 per week incl. 700 km. Autobedrijf:

H. Dunnewind
Haven Oost 18
Ommen, OV
Tel. 05291-1960

Two-bedroom basement apartment, non-smoker, no pets, parking privileges, close to churches/schools/facilities. Call (416) 935-9619.

Furnished, large one-bedroom apartment available to sublet in Etobicoke for three months from Sept. through Dec. — dates flexible. May be ideal for student(s) for one semester. Call collect, evenings (416) 259-6573.

Accommodations

Young woman wanted to share accommodation in house on Limeridge and West 5th St., Hamilton. Contact Sandra evenings at (416) 388-3140.

Scarborough — Room available in modern home. Share facilities with two Christian ladies. Non-smoking female please. $425 per month, includes utilities and central air. Call Clarence Baarda, sales rep. (416) 291-9988. **Re/Max East Realty Ltd.**

GUELPH
Person wanted to share house in Guelph. Suits university student. For information call (519) 763-7896.

Bed and Breakfast
Enjoy Dutch hospitality in beautiful Midland close to St. Marie and Martyr's Shrine and boat tours. Double: $35, Single: $30 per night. Phone (705) 526-3395.

Real Estate

Holland Marsh
$299,900
Custom-built four-bedroom home with large country kitchen, sunken l.r., cathedral ceiling, two fp's. Walking distance to Christian school, Chr. Ref. Church and bus to Toronto District Christian High. Large private lot. Call Ken or Joan Horlings, **Re/Max** Sovereign Realty Ltd. (416) 775-4856 or (416) 773-2858.

Teachers

CAMBRIDGE, N.S.: Kings County Christian School requires a homeroom teacher for **Grades 6 and 7** with an emphasis on Junior High Science. For an application form and further information please call either Mrs. Barbara Billings, Principal, (902) 678-6665 or Mr. Bill Hogeboom (902) 582-7235.

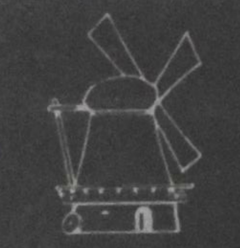
Vacations

LANG'S RESORT
Cottages and campgrounds
RICE LAKE
Like fishing the big ones? Fully-equipped large (newly-renovated) housekeeping cottages — colour TV, sandy bathing area, rec. hall, new boats and motors, store, live bait, fishing lic., campsites available for weekend, week, or season. Like a clean quiet resort. It's all here at the family place. Before you book your '89 vacation, take a drive and see our new look. Only 83 miles from Toronto. Write or phone for brochure:
Lang's Resort
R.R. #3, Box C, Roseneath, ON
K0K 2X0
Phone: (416) 352-2308

WASAGA BEACH
Still looking for a great holiday? Come to **Alton Lodges** and enjoy our nine miles of sandy beach. Safe swimming for everyone. One- and two-bedroom housekeeping cottages. Give us a call at (705) 429-2420. Your hosts: Len and Rita Bette, Alton Lodges, R.R.#1, Site 130, Box 8, Wasaga Beach, ON L0L 2P0.

Lakewood Christian Campgrounds
R.R. #5, Forest, ON N0N 1J0
Phone (519) 899-4415
or (519) 845-3405
Lakewood consists of 125 acres of land, ponds, wooded trails, a creek, family camping and group camping area. Large pool facilities. Long nature and hiking trails.

For sale



It's Mostly in Dutch
some English, too

It's almost all about The Netherlands - current affairs, feature stories, news from the churches (1 page), politics, many pictures - and the Dutch in Canada and the U.S.A. It's being mailed twice a month and has 28 tabloid pages or more.
Only $17.00 anually.
Write *the Windmill Herald.*
From the *U.S.A.:*
P.O. Box 591, Lynden, WA 98264;
from *Ontario or East:*
Box 1064, Sta. 'B', Rexdale, ON M9V 2B3
from *Manitoba or West:*
P.O. Bag 9033, Surrey, BC V3T 4X3
Yes, our English pages are interesting too.
the Windmill Herald

Help Wanted

Youth worker wanted. The Christian Reformed Church of New Westminster, B.C., has an ongoing youth program that requires a dynamic person to continue this challenging work. We have much to offer in beautiful B.C. besides our youth. The position is currently half-time. Please send your resume to: Mr. W. Griffioen, 8255-13th Ave., Burnaby, BC V3M 2G6.

Fruit grower in the Hamilton area has an opening for marketing and general farm work. Drivers licence preferable. Room and board provided if necessary. Phone (519) 647-2534.

Help wanted for greenhouse work in the Niagara Peninsula. Call (416) 892-3657 or 892-3285.

We are looking for a **nanny** to care for our two children (3 and 1), four days a week, in Oakville, Ont., starting in September. Some light housekeeping. Call (416) 825-3578.

Christian Reformed World Missions is inviting applications for an **administrative secretary,** to begin by late August or early September. Applicants should have experience in general office and accounting procedures as well as familiarity with computers and word processing, should have an active interest in missions, and should have a personal commitment to the Lord. Interested persons should send their resume by Aug. 25, 1989, to the attention of: Mr. Bill Termorshuizen, Christian Reformed World Missions, P.O. Box 5070, 3475 Mainway, Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8.

Help Wanted

CARING FOR KIDS Mutual Support Systems, a residential program for children, is looking for families in the Niagara Peninsula that would provide foster care for a child in their own home. Please reply to:
Mutual Support Systems
R.R. #1, Perry Rd.,
Wellandport, ON
L0R 2J0
(416) 899-2311

Retired widower looking for a **woman companion,** 60 years and over, to help with household chores, including cooking, in return for free room and board, in the town of Exeter, Ont. Please reply as soon as possible. Call (519) 235-1748.

Medium-size greenhouse operation is looking for a **grower** with some experience who is willing and able to assume some responsibility. Write to File #2524, c/o Calvinist Contact, 4-261 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines, ON L2W 1A1.

Interested in youth work? Are you enthusiastic and really care for kids? Then consider an opportunity for service in a Christ-centred residential program for children with emotional and behavioural problems. Live-in child care worker positions commence in September. Apply to:
Mutual Support Systems
R.R. #1, Perry Rd.
Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0
(416) 899-2311

Christian Stewardship Services, a charitable organization giving educational leadership in personal stewardship as well as in charitable giving, seeks a full- or ¾-time

STEWARDSHIP OFFICER

to conduct seminars and advise clients.
Inquiries held in strict confidence. Position description and requirements available upon request.

CSS

Apply in writing to:
CSS
#210-455 Spadina Ave., Toronto, ON
M5S 2G8
(416) 598-2181

Landscape Designer

Full-time position available immediately for qualified individual who is willing to learn computer designing. Apply to:

Connon Nurseries
C.B. Vanderkruk Holdings Ltd.
383 Dundas St. E., Box 1218
Waterdown, ON L0R 2H0
(416) 689-8756

Store Manager

Full-time position for busy store. Applicant must have good common sense, people knowledge. Experience is a definite asset. Apply to:

Connon Nurseries
C.B. Vanderkruk Holdings Ltd.
383 Dundas St. E., Box 1218,
Waterdown, ON L0R 2H0
(416) 689-8756

Classified/Events

Committee of Concerned Members

invites you to hear

Mr. Mark Zylstra
(Development Director C.C.M.)
speaking on

"The Urgency of Our Concern and The Reason for Our Existence"

September 14, 1989 — 8 p.m.
Clinton, Ont., CRC

ALL WELCOME

Sponsored by: Classis Huron Chapter of Committee of Concerned Members of CRC.

For information contact:
Mr. John Verburg (519) 523-4325

Ontario Christian Reformed Church School Association 32nd Annual Convention

Let's get enthusiastic for the Lord
Saturday, September 16, 1989 — 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Host: Providence CRC — Beamsville

Inspirational speakers:
a.m. — Rev. Robert A. Meyering
p.m. — Dr. Emily Brink

Twelve workshops covering the whole range of church school education from early childhood through to catechism and adult teaching.

For more information and registration contact your church school superintendent or phone (519) 884-6044.

REUNION
VAN SCHEPEN

AND FAMILIES: vanderNaalt, Hilverda, Hartholt, deHaan and the many other surnames of the new generations.

Place: Harrison Park, Owen Sound
Saturday, September 2, 1989 — 11 a.m.

Bring your picnic lunch, chairs and all else to make the day comfortable.

PASS THE WORD

Your attendance will help make it a memorable day

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6

WE HAVE SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

After years of planning and fundraising, we now have our own building, and you are invited to share in our celebration. God willing, this building will be dedicated in a special service on **September 22, 1989.** There will be a potluck dinner starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Opening Ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Questions may be directed to Florence Euverman 635-2418. We hope to see you there!

Centennial Christian School
3608 Sparks St.
Terrace, BC V8G 2V6
Phone 635-6173

HOME SCHOOL CHURCH

Registrations are now coming in for our

ISRAEL TOUR

Nov. 13-22, 1989
Lower, off-season, full package price
$1789 p.p. dbl. occ.

For registration or information contact hosts Pastor Fred and Mrs. Ella Heslinga at (519) 941-0652 (until Aug. 26) or (after Aug. 28) write 15 Tyrone Dr., Hamilton, ON L9C 2M6 or phone (416) 388-3876.

Reserve your spot this week for a visit to the land of your Christian roots and a fine, safe holiday experience.

Help Wanted | Help Wanted

The National Committee, administering ministries among Indian and Métis people of Canada on behalf of the Council of Christian Reformed Churches, invites applications for

Director-Missionary

to initiate native Christian working and worshipping community in Edmonton, Alberta.

The successful applicant will:
- have a knowledge of and ability to work with indigenous peoples;
- have a solid pastoral background and/or experience in a field of human services;
- be able to initiate and implement new programs;
- have a commitment to the Christian Reformed Church.

Direct inquiries or application and resume to chairman George Fernhout, Box 9, Site 10, R.R.#4, Edmonton, AB T5E 5S7. Tel. (403) 921-2270; Office phone (403) 453-7723; fax (403) 422-5632.

Deadline three weeks from date of publication.

Year-round full-time employment available in

Greenhouse cut flower operation

Experience not necessary.
Please phone or write:
Noordam Greenhouses Ltd.
1140 Edgewood Rd., R.R.#1, Millgrove, ON L0R 1V0
Phone (416) 689-6761

Church news

Christian Reformed Church

Accepted
— To First, Taber, Alta., Cand. Harry Zantingh.
— to Immanuel, Cornwall, Ont., Cand. Andrew Van Muyen.
— to Williamsburg, Ont., Rev. Johan D. Tangelder of East, Strathroy, Ont.

Decined
— to First, St. Thomas, Ont., Cand. Harry Zantingh.

Change in time of worship
Effective Sept. 10, 1989, First CRC, London, Ont., will worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and at 6 p.m.

Twenty-fifth year in ministry
With gratitude to God the Maranatha congregation of Bowmanville, Ont., is happy to announce that it's former pastor, Rev. Guy Corvers, has completed 25 years in the ministry of the Christian Reformed Church.

This event will be celebrated with a social evening, Sat., Sept. 23, 1989, at 8 p.m. at Knox Christian School, Bowmanville. Everyone is welcome.

Calendar of Events will return next week

Events

STUDENTS!

Huron Campus Ministry
(Guelph)

Soup and Welcome Evening
Sept. 11, 1988, 5:00 p.m.
Guelph Christian Reformed Church
Water Street

First Fellowship evening
Sept. 14, 1988, 5:00 p.m.
Guelph Christian Reformed Church
Water Street, Guelph

Kingston Campus Ministry
Dr. Bill Groningen,
Campus Pastor
104 Queen's Crescent,
Kingston, ON K7L 2S8
(613) 545-2962

GENEVA FELLOWSHIP

Open House at the ministry centre
Sept. 11, 2-4 p.m.
to welcome all new and returning students
104 Queen's Crescent,
Kingston, Ont.

Our first fellowship supper
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 5:30 p.m.

Huron Campus Ministry (Waterloo)
The Waterloo Christian Reformed Church
warmly invites
all new Waterloo-area students, their parents and friends
to a
Special Student Welcome Service
Sunday, Sept. 10, 1988, at 10:00 a.m.

- After the service information about Huron Campus Ministry will be given and an excellent lunch provided
- The HCM Fellowship begins Sept. 13, 1988, in McKirdy Hall, St. Paul's College, at 4:30 p.m.
- Please contact Chaplain Graham E. Morbey (886-1474) for further information and assistance
- The Waterloo Church is located at 209 Bearinger Rd., off Albert St.

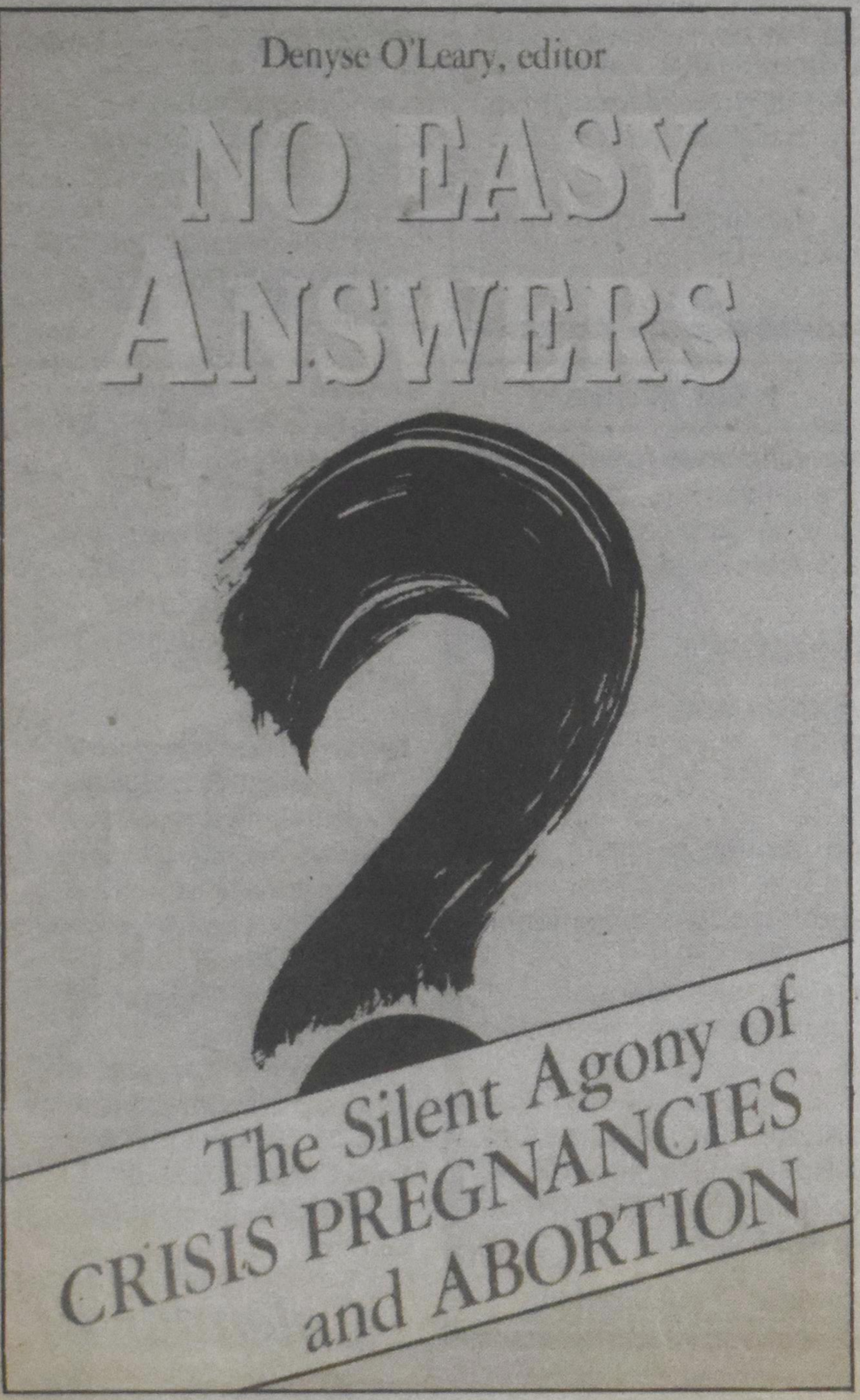
AUG 2 9 1989 DATE

Books

Robert VanderVennen, book review editor

Crisis pregnancies

Painful dilemma



No Easy Answers, edited by Denyse O'Leary. Burlington, Ont.: Welch, 1988. Softcover, 165 pp. Reviewed by Doro Bakker, Orangeville, Ont.

In Canada's political arena and in its highest judicial courts the issue of abortion remains unresolved. It appears that there are no "easy answers" for our politicians and judges. Canada has been without an abortion law since January 1988 when that law was struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada. More recently, the Supreme Court has refused to rule on Manitoba's anti-abortionist Joe Borowski's plea to protect the rights of the fetus under Canada's Charter of Rights. Today, an unborn child remains unprotected by this country's laws.

No Easy Answers is a book about women confronted by crisis pregnancies. According to Denyse O'Leary, the book's editor, the title doesn't intend to imply that there are no "right" answers, only that the answers and decisions arrived at do not come easily.

No Easy Answers sheds light on the personal side to issues surrounding crisis pregnancies. The difficulties encountered by women faced with these pregnancies is movingly told by several Canadian women. All have struggled with their decision and all agree that the impact, regardless of their decision, continues to affect their lives. We hear from a woman who has undergone an abortion, from one who has chosen to keep her child and from another who has chosen to give her newborn up for adoption.

No Easy Answers is well laid-out in three sections. The first describes those whose lives have been touched by a crisis pregnancy. A 23-year-old woman tells of the aching pain she still feels since aborting her child seven years ago. Another woman affirms her decision to give up her child for adoption. She tells of the wrenching pain and heartache that decision has entailed. A single mother reflects on the past 14 years she has been raising her daughter on her own. She shares both her joys and struggles.

Applying our knowledge

"Front Lines — The Helping Professions Deal With Crisis Pregnancy and Abortion' is the second section. Here we gain perspective and insight from Christians who are called on to counsel women trying to make right decisions under often difficult circumstances. A physician relates how he ministers to women who come to him with crisis pregnancies. Much of his time spent with them is simply in lending loving support. A psychiatrist shares several case histories of women who have opted for abortion and who continue to suffer significant emotional problems.

The final section, "The Research," supports the previous chapters with scholarly discussions of the research literature currently available. Research describing what is known about post-abortion syndrome and the physical implications of abortion supports what some of the women described earlier have already said. It is frightening to learn of the physical and emotional damage done to women who have undergone what are consideredto be "safe" abortions.

A reading of *No Easy Answers* does not leave one unmoved nor unmotivated to act. The challenge to the Christian community is clear. Women confronted by crisis pregnancies need our support and compassion, not our judgment. At the very least, our task in solving the abortion problem is to concretely support women in need. By thus sharing the love of Christ we witness his healing touch.

To its credit, the book concludes with four highly useful appendices. Included are suggestions for further readings and lists of crisis pregnancy support groups across Canada. The valuable information in *No Easy Answers* will help the Christian community extend its support to women facing a crisis pregnancy. At a time when the federal government has left the fetus unprotected, this is a timely book.

ATTENTION!

When you fax your display or classified ads to us (particularly obituaries), please type them and check spelling BEFORE you transmit the text. Thank you.

Roofing

DYKSTRA BROS.

R.R.#1, Beamsville, Ont.
FREE ESTIMATES

563-7374 Marty
934-3600 Chuck

Friends of God

Wayne Brouwer

When God plays hide and seek ....

"How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?" **(Psalm 13:1)**

Baptist minister Stephen Winward says that when he was growing up, his mother used to quote a little proverb to him: *Patience is a virtue: possess it if you can! Seldom in a woman, and never in a man!*

Is that true? How patient are you?

Probably each of us has prayed this prayer of patience at one time or another: "Lord, give me patience, and give it to me *right now!*" In the 16th century, when life moved at a much slower pace, one man wrote these words: "I have not so great a struggle with my vices, ... numerous as they are, as I have with my *impatience* .... I have never been able to conquer this ferocious wild beast!"

Sound familiar? John Calvin wrote that! And his words will probably always be true for each of us. Even if technology allows us to experience things faster and faster, we will never have enough patience for some things that happen around us in the world, or for specific people that keep getting in our way, or for God, who sometimes seems so distant.

The silence of God

And that last one's the tough one, isn't it? We can get over our other frustrations in life, but what do we do when God is silent?

A short while ago I sat with a mother in one of London's hospitals. We prayed for the life of her daughter. She had no peace that God was there. And then, after we prayed for God's healing, her daughter died anyway. Why?

Elie Wiesel endured the horror of the Nazi death camps. He watched women and children herded into gas chambers. He cried with the men who were beaten to death by cruel soldiers. He saw a young boy hanging on a gallows. *"Where is God?!"* he cried.

It's the cry of David in Psalm 13. It's the cry of Job. It's the haunting whisper of every generation that feels the stress of a groaning world and hungers in cosmic silence for a reasonable answer or some tangible touch from heaven. *"Where are you, God?!!"*

Where is God when a child dies? Where is God when a mother is snatched from her family? Where is God when nuclear reactors blow up and airplanes crash and mines collapse? Where is God? "How long ....?!" cries David.

And Satan laughs. He knows he's got us now. He knows the cards in his hand are the winning draw. Can faith remain when God is silent? Can trust carry on when there seems to be no one at the other end of the line? "NO!" shouts Satan.

The endurance of faith

But *he* doesn't have the last word.

"Yes!" whispers Job, and David, and a thousand million other little people crushed by the circumstances of life. "I trust in your unfailing love!" "I *know* my Redeemer lives!"

That's the deepest level of patience, you know. In the New Testament James calls it "perseverance" (5:11). We love God, not because of the miracles that turn everything our way, but because there is no other way that life makes sense! We trust in God, not because we always feel the wonder of his presence, but because, even in his absence, *there is no where else to turn!*

That's the cry of David. That's the patience of Job. That the heart of Christian faith. You can't explain it. Those of you who have been there can never really share the experience. You can talk about it later, when God seems close again. But it's the awful agony of faith, when we stand undressed and alone.

Years ago, Dr. Arthur Gossip preached a sermon entitled: *"When Life Tumbles In, What Then?"* He preached it the day after his beloved wife had suddenly died. He ended the sermon with these words: *"Our hearts are very frail, and there are places where the road is very steep and very lonely. Standing in the roaring Jordan, cold with its dreadful chill and very conscious of its terror, of its rushing, I call back to you who one day will have to cross it, 'Be of good cheer, my brother, for I feel the bottom, and it is sound.'"*

Wayne Brouwer is a pastor at First Christian Reformed Church in London, Ont.